

Grade quits
as head of ACC

Lord Grade, the flamboyant showbusiness tycoon, has resigned as head of Associated Communications Corporation, the film and property empire, he built over 25 years. Mr Robert Holmes a Court, an Australian financier, who has made a £35m bid for the company, takes over as chairman. All the other ACC directors, except Sir Max Aitken who is "indispensible", have given undertakings to resign. They will receive no compensation. Page 11 and back page

Kitson's aunt
found dead

Mrs Alison Joan Weinberg, aged 52, the aunt of Mr Steven Kitson, for five days by South African police, has been found dead in her flat in central Johannesburg. The police are treating the case as murder. Mrs Weinberg had tried to arrange Mr Kitson's visit to his jailed father. Page 4

Treasury aims
for 7pc inflation

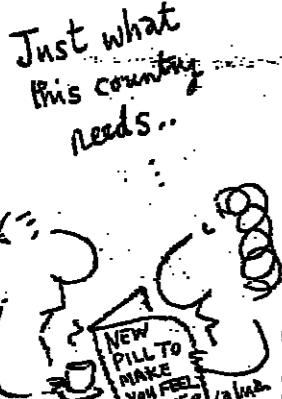
The Treasury is planning new monetary growth targets based on hopes that inflation will fall to 7 per cent next year and that output will grow to 2 per cent. Meanwhile, a threatened miners' strike and the troubles on the railways has hit the pound, which fell for the sixth consecutive day to close in London at \$1.8630. Page 11

England Test
hopes fade

England failed to take a wicket in the fifth Test at Madras yesterday and any hope of a victory was frustrated by Sharma and Viswanath, both of whom scored centuries. An entertaining day's cricket was marred by some boorish behaviour from Botham. Page 15

Contempt case
verdict soon

Judgment is expected soon in the case of Jack Lundin, a Fleet Street journalist charged with contempt of court in refusing to identify the source for a report he wrote exposing corruption and illegality at Ladbrokes casinos. Page 2

Just what
this country
needs...Hights and lows
for climbers

There is growing evidence that Diamox, a drug commonly used to treat glaucoma, can combat mountain sickness. One researcher says it "knocks 6,000ft off the height of Everest". The drug, made from acetazolamide, thought to stimulate the production of body acids, has been tested by Lord Hunt. Page 3

Ticket boost

A total of 160,000 tickets, double the original number, for the World Cup football finals this summer have been allocated for sale in Britain in an attempt to reduce the number of fans travelling to Spain without tickets. Page 1

Haughey shuffle

Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Republic's Opposition leader, has appointed Dr Martin O'Donoghue as Fianna Fail spokesman on finance. Mr Brian Lenihan moves from the shadow foreign affairs post to take charge of party policy. Mr George Colley remains deputy party leader. Page 4

Hoxha 'is alive'

Albanian diplomats have denied that Mr Enver Hoxha, the party leader, had been killed in revenge for the death last month of Mr Mehmet Shehu, the Prime Minister. Page 4

Leader page 9

Letters: On the rail strike, from Sir Richard Dobson, and Mr L. A. Jackson; rape sentence, from Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, and Mr V. de Lanerolle. Leading Articles: Nationalized industries; Greece; Rape Features, page 8

The Soviet Union and Poland: David Watt on why the Yalta agreement on spheres of influence should not confuse the issue. Obituary, page 10

Mr John Penrycwick, Dr Hugh Fawcett

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Rail dispute
widens
with 3% offer
to NUR

By David Felton Labour Reporter

British Rail last night took a gamble and agreed to offer a 3 per cent pay increase to its biggest union while continuing to deny a similar payment to train drivers who returned to work this morning after a two-day strike.

The management took the risk of drawing the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef) into the dispute. The public will already be without trains on Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday next week as Aslef continues its selective strike to secure the 3 per cent payment.

BR offered the 3 per cent rise to the 1,500 members of the National Union of Railways (NUR) who are train drivers. Mr Russell Tuck, NUR senior assistant general secretary, said emphatically last night that the 3 per cent was being paid with no productivity savings.

The offer has angered Aslef, whose general secretary, Mr Ray Buckton, said: "BR's obvious intention is to drive a wedge between the unions. Surely the country will realize now that what I have been saying all along that productivity should be separate from pay was true."

Leaders of Aslef and the NUR met last night to discuss BR's latest move and the union executives will meet separately today to consider their response. It is likely that the NUR executive will accept the offer for its footplatemen but Aslef's response could be to threaten a widening of the dispute.

After their meeting, Mr Tuck and Mr Buckton emphasized the closeness of the two unions and said that Aslef would not be isolated by the BR action.

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NEWS IN
SUMMARYHowe urged
to abolish
stamp duty

A call for the abolition of stamp duty on house purchases is made by the Building Societies Association in its annual Budget representation to Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer (Lorna Bourke writes).

Just over half the number of houses mortgaged to building societies during the third quarter of last year cost more than £20,000, the starting point for stamp duty, and the average price of houses on which loans were granted was £25,000, attracting stamp duty of at least £250.

Stamp duty is paid on properties costing more than £20,000 at a rate of 0.5 per cent of the purchase price between £20,001 and £25,000; 1 per cent between £25,001 and £30,000; 1.5 per cent between £30,001 and £35,000; and 2 per cent thereafter.

The yield from duty on houses sold this financial year is estimated to be £285m, compared with £225m in 1980-81 and £250m in 1979-80.

Cabinet curb on
farm export aid

Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, is to open a seminar in London today on agricultural and food marketing. Organized by the Conservative Party, it will reflect concern that not enough is being done to promote the products of Britain's largest and most successful industry (Our Agriculture Correspondent writes).

One difficulty facing British producers is the great support given to marketing by government agencies abroad.

Two share best
actor award

Translations, by Brian Friel, staged at the National Theatre, was named yesterday by Drama, the quarterly review of the British Theatre Association, as the best new play of 1981. Other awards were:

Best actor: John Nettie in "Much Ado About Nothing"; and Best supporting actor: Ian Bannen in "Translations".

Best comedy: "Gosipimples", devised by Mike Leigh, at Hampstead Theatre.

Best production: "Cats", by Andrew Lloyd Webber; Best revival: "The Royal Hunt of the Sun"; Best Royal Court: "A Man's Home"; "RSC: The Other Place"; and "The Selfish Giant" (Shared Experience-All media).

New promising new actress: Tracey Ulman; Best Upstart: Best promising actress: Helen Everett; Another promising actress: Brenda Blethyn.

Most promising new playwright: Paul Karski; "Outskirts"; and Stafford Clark; "The Seagull"; Royal Court; and Adrian Noble, "Duchess of Malfi"; and Alistair Horne; "The Best Design": Ralph Koltai ("The Forest"); and "The Innocent".

Riot soldiers on trial

Corporal Stephen Buzzard, aged 23, was accused at Belfast Crown Court yesterday, of causing the deaths of two rioters by reckless driving during rioting in Londonderry last Easter. It was alleged that he drove a Land-Rover into a crowd at 65mph.

New champion of race equality

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

Mr Peter Newson, who will take a cut in salary of more than £7,000 when he takes over as chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE), is one of the ablest and most highly respected of the 104 chief education officers in England and Wales.

For the past five years he has headed Inner London Education Authority, the largest and most difficult education authority in the country, with responsibility for 80,000 employees, 400,000 pupils and students, 1,400 schools and colleges and an annual budget of nearly £800m. The CRE has a budget of less than £8m and a staff of just over £200.

Why did he agree to take on the CRE job, which one colleague described as being like jumping out of the frying pan into the fire? Already there are mutterings among West Indian leaders, for example, about his not being acceptable because he is not black.

When he starts his new job on September 1 it will be 10 years to the day since he arrived at the ILFA as deputy

Owen asks TUC to help in drawing up SDP policies

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Dr David Owen called on the unions yesterday to break their exclusive ties with the Labour Party and appealed for their cooperation in the creation of constructive SDP policies.

The Social Democrats' parliamentary leader said in a lecture at Leicester University that the identification of the TUC with the Labour Party had become so close that it was destroying the unions' effectiveness in representing the interests of their members to the Government.

Just over half the number of houses mortgaged to building societies during the third quarter of last year cost more than £20,000, the starting point for stamp duty, and the average price of houses on which loans were granted was £25,000, attracting stamp duty of at least £250.

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The yield from duty on houses sold this financial year is estimated to be £285m, compared with £225m in 1980-81 and £250m in 1979-80.

What we want now in our development as a party is the active involvement of more trade union officials and the

opening of a dialogue with the unions and management.

The Social Democrats have clearly been pained by the failure of unions and their leaders to make any approach to their party at a time when future policies are being examined. Dr Owen said: "The TUC leaders, like sensible industrialists should be influencing the party at this stage. For the TUC to cling only to the Labour Party and exclude constructive dialogue would be a folly, and one which their members should not accept."

"Their members should insist on a more balanced political relationship in the interests of trade unionism."

He said an alliance government would attempt to break the political mould of financial dependence of Labour and Conservative parties on the unions and big business; it wanted to work with both sides of industry, acting as social partners with government.

"A democratic base is that a Social Democratic-Liberal government will not feel obliged to make party politically motivated 'deals' with either

Parish plan, page 3

200 firms are target of Militant leader

By Our Political Correspondent

One of the leaders of Labour's Militant Tendency organization suggested yesterday that a socialist government could nationalize 200 big companies with just one Act of Parliament.

Mr Peter Taaffe says in this week's edition of *Labour Weekly* that there is no Militant conspiracy to win power and influence within the Labour Party.

It is because of the failure of capitalists on the one side and the failure of the right wing, programme on the other, that the left as a whole and Militant have found increased support within the Labour movement.

"It is for this reason that Militant advocates the nationalization of the 200 monopolies including the banks and insurance companies, with minimum compensation on the basis of proven need."

Militant supporters have not parachuted into constituency Labour parties and moulded the members in the branches and the management committees to our point of view", he says.

The Government was called on yesterday to conduct an urgent review of the law on rape by Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, in a letter to Lord Hallsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor.

Its followers feel that nothing short of a complete reorganization of the party on socialist lines would bring about improvement in living standards of the working class.

"It is for this reason that Militant advocates the nationalization of the 200 monopolies including the banks and insurance companies, with minimum compensation on the basis of proven need."

But its women's advisory committee believes there are still weaknesses in the law on rape which need rectification so that women are better protected.

The case for rectifying these weaknesses has been reinforced. Mr Murray says, by the decision of the Crown to drop charges against three Glasgow teenagers accused of rape and attempted murder because the victim is not in a fit mental state to give evidence.

"It is extremely alarming that a case of such importance should be dropped because the victim cannot give evidence," Mr Murray says. "I know that you will agree that the increased incidence of rape is very worrying and women must be able to rely upon the protection of the law against such physical assault."

The TUC therefore was asking the Government to conduct an urgent review of the law so that women could in future be as safe as far as possible of its protection.

Mr Jack Ashley, Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent, South, whose criticisms of the law on rape led to a review under Mr Justice Heilbron in 1975, said yesterday that he could support Mr Murray.

Mr Ashley said he was particularly concerned about the law that a man could not be guilty of rape if he believed a woman consented to intercourse.

Three men from the Shankill Road area of Belfast, convicted of raping a girl in her flat, were yesterday jailed at Belfast Crown Court for a total of 26 years (Richard Ford writes).

Hugh Calderwood, aged 21, a former member of the Ulster Defence Association, was sentenced to eight years for "rape" and two years for assaulting the girl and causing actual bodily harm, and John Knowles, aged 22, and Thomas Canavan, aged 25, were each given eight years for rape.

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Letters, page 9

TUC asks for review of rape law

By Frances Gibb

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THE TIMES FRIDAY JANUARY 15 1982

Keith Wadigrad

Science Report
A protein boost to beat hepatitis

By Staff of "Nature". A group of American scientists has synthesized a small fragment of a protein which sits on the surface of the virus that causes hepatitis B. The scientists have shown that, when injected into mice, the fragment strongly promotes the production of antibodies against the complete protein.

That may well be the best approach to the production of a vaccine against hepatitis B, a common infectious disease that can have serious consequences.

Unlike, for example, the polio virus, it has never been possible to grow the hepatitis B virus in the laboratory and turn it into a vaccine. Therefore, until three years ago the only possible approach to a vaccine was to use the serum of the one in a thousand healthy blood donors who carry the virus continuously without apparent ill effect.

But in 1979 genetic engineers managed to transplant genes from the virus into bacteria in such a way that the bacteria produced viral proteins. One such protein was the hepatitis B surface antigen, itself the basis of existing vaccines.

As a side result of cloning the surface antigen, its structure could be deduced. It is from this structure that a team led by Professor Joseph Melnick, of Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, decided upon a fragment to synthesize the test.

That decision was based upon an educated guess as to which parts of the molecule would be exposed when it was folded up into its natural shape.

In addition, it was necessary to pick a fragment whose structure was unique to the surface antigen protein. Having identified an exposed, unique fragment, Professor Melnick's team synthesized it in a slightly modified form and then tested it in mice.

The test was whether, and to what extent, the mice would produce antibodies against the hepatitis B surface antigen when given the fragment. Most of the mice produced large amounts of antibody for at least three weeks after a single injection.

Although it is reasonable to suppose that those antibodies would have protected the mice against infection by hepatitis B virus, it was not possible to test that supposition because mice are not susceptible to the virus. That test will need to be carried out with chimpanzees. If successful, it will point the way to the production of a vaccine that avoids the problems of either growing bacteria or collecting human blood.

Source: Nature, 14 January 1982 (vol 295, page 153). © Nature-Times News Service, 1982.



Bleak prospect: Frank Holloway pacing the deserted track at his local station, Purley Oaks, Surrey, yesterday.

Gloom on the Railways

A driver's lot is not a happy one

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

Mr Frank Holloway, aged 50, a train driver, who joined the railways in the late 1940s at the height of the steam era, faces the prospect of another 15 years in a job in which he no longer has much interest. He is typical of many who started work with steam and find themselves in what they consider a boring job driving electric trains.

He works from the Waterloo depot, on British Rail's Southern Region, driving commuter and Inter-City services from the south coast and commuter trains into the capital. His basic weekly pay is just over £100, but with up to 20 hours a week overtime and shift premiums he reckons on taking home between £115 and £120.

He is not on strike this week because he had previously arranged some leave. But he will join the dispute enthusiastically when he returns next week because he believes his union, the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef) cannot afford to concede the changes to the standard eight-hour day sought by British Rail.

"I don't believe them when they say flexible rostering will reduce the unsocial shifts we work. I also believe the union has to fight, because British Rail is trying to make sure we go out of business", Mr Holloway, who at the beginning of the year became Aslef branch secretary at Waterloo, said.

He is critical of the handling of the dispute. Neither side helps by making statements in public which make it more difficult to find a solution. Both sides are now in a hole and I cannot see a way out.

"I think the dispute could be lengthy".

Mr Holloway, who is married with three children and lives in Sandstead, Surrey, disputes British Rail's claim that the flexibility of seven-to-nine-hour shifts is needed to make drivers' time more productive, and he quotes as a typical shift a duty late last year (see table).

He knew of several cases of drivers at Waterloo deciding to leave and take up labouring work because they were depressed by the job.

He started work as an engine cleaner at Nine Elms depot in London in 1948. Six months later he became a fireman and was suspended for being late.

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New Forest oil might last 3½ days only

From Hugh Noyes, Lyndhurst

The Shell Oil Company appeared yesterday to be running into a storm over its application to explore for oil in the New Forest.

On the third day of the public inquiry into Shell's proposals to drill an exploratory borehole at the Denby Inclosure beauty spot, the mighty multi-national came under bitter attack for its attempts to wave the banner of national interest and for being prepared to sacrifice historic and environmental amenities such as the New Forest, for purely commercial considerations.

Shell represented yesterday by Dr Philip Nelson, head of the company's Land and Western Offshore Exploration and Production, was unable to deny that, on the basis of its own estimate, the quantity of oil likely in the Lyndhurst structure could keep the nation going for between only three-and-a-half to ten days.

In other words, claimed Mr John Saulter, counsel representing 14 local and national amenity and conservation interests grouped under the New Forest Association, Shell was saying that for perhaps three-and-a-half days' national supply of oil the company would like to be in the New Forest for a possible 20 years.

While accepting that Mr Saulter's calculations were mathematically correct, Dr Nelson said his deductions were "totally false, misleading and should not be considered" by the inspector of the inquiry.

The inquiry continues today.

Father wins right to sue over deaf and dumb son

From Our Correspondent, Edinburgh

A father who pleaded before three Scottish judges for natural justice for his deaf-and-dumb son, aged eight, yesterday won a round in his six-year battle against a health board.

Mr James Kay, aged 51, a teacher of Ayrshire Road, Prestwick, was granted the right, in the Court of Session in Edinburgh, to bring a £200,000 damages case against Ayrshire and Arran Health Board to be proved in court.

Mr Kay alleges that his son Andrew became deaf at the age of two and a half after an overdose of penicillin was administered while he was being treated for meningitis in Seafield Children's hospital, Ayr.

The board admitted that an overdose had been administered, but claimed this had not caused the child's deafness.

Mr Kay twice refused to accept the advice of senior Queen's Counsel to accept an out of court settlement, claiming the offer was derisory.

Last week Mr Kay appealed against a decision by Lord Grieve to take the case out of his hands and appoint a counsel to represent the child's interests. Mr Kay, who appeared on his own behalf, has argued that in the interests of natural justice his child's right should be properly tested in court and not decided on the advice of counsel or of the health board.

'Mountain pill conquers sickness'

By Ronald Faux

Tests in the Himalayas have produced new evidence of the effectiveness of a pill that is said to help the highest mountain. According to Dr Joe Bradwell, of the Medical Research Expeditionary Society at Birmingham University, the evidence is overwhelming that Diamox, a drug commonly used in the treatment of glaucoma, is effective in fighting mountain sickness.

The University has given advice on the pill's effectiveness to the Chinese authorities, who are building a railway line from sea level to the Tibetan plateau and have suffered several deaths from altitude sickness.

A company in Birmingham that is installing transformers in Peru at 13,000ft has also taken supply of the pill. Altitude sickness begins with a bad headache and continues through vomiting and delirium to death unless the victim is moved quickly to a lower altitude.

The pill is made from aconitum, which is thought to stimulate the production of certain acids in the body, making it easier to breath and control the level of oxygen in the blood at high altitude.

The pill has effectively knocked 6,000ft off the height of Everest, Dr Bradwell says, and has a similar effect at lesser altitudes.

The research team believes it is important to find an answer to altitude sickness because of the rising number of expeditions exposed to the danger in remote parts of the world.

Next month Dr Bradwell with 20 doctors and scientists from Birmingham sets out for Africa to test another drug made by Lederle, the American company that produces Diamox. He believes that the new substance may prove even more effective. They will carry out their tests at 16,000ft on Mount Kenya, where they will be able to simulate an altitude equivalent to the top of Everest.

Lord Hunt, aged 71, leader of the successful British expedition to Everest in 1953, recently returned from the Himalayas after climbing a 20,000ft summit without suffering altitude pains.

"I opted to try the pill," he said.

"The last time I was at a comparable altitude was 20 years ago in the Pamirs when I found climbing a 13,000ft peak quite a struggle. Child was which we have just climbed was higher but not unduly bothered at all."

He agreed that the party had spent a lengthy acclimatization period before attempting the peak.

Lady Hunt, who declined to take Diamox after two tablets had made her feel ill, and other members of the party reached the summit without problems and without assistance from the pill.

Dr Hamish Nicol, who gathered the results from those taking and not taking the pill concluded that it had not been convincingly proved to be helpful. "I was on it and became sure that it was not helpful to me," he said.

Elsewhere in the Himalayas, Mr Alf Gregory, another Everest veteran, was handing out Diamox to his clients on a photographic trek without any doubt that it would end off the painful symptoms that can begin at about 12,000ft.

After the hearing the boy's mother, Mrs Madge Kay said that her son was totally deaf and dumb. Before going into hospital at the age of two and a half he had been able to speak well and often answered the telephone.



Weighing in: Claire, the new-born daughter of Anna Ford and her husband, Mark Boxer, the cartoonist, faces the cameras for the first time. Mr Boxer was present at the birth last week.

Fire inquest anger

Year of mourning for 13 blacks

By Lucy Hodges

Comyn commented that it was a very serious irregularity.

The failure to provide a transcript of proceedings is therefore also the subject of an appeal by the families.

Mr Darcus Howe, of the Massacre Action Committee, which has maintained all along that the fire was an arson attack against black people, is angry about the time the appeal is taking to come to court.

He accused the divisional court of callous and cruel behaviour to the families and the West Indian community.

"We are very disgusted about it," he said.

"We have lodged all the documents and we note that there are occasions when cases are brought forward because of their social and political importance. We can only conclude that the authorities think this is not the right time for an appeal."

On Monday Mr Howe and others will hold a public meeting at Deptford town hall to discuss this. Later this year the International Commission of Inquiry, an-

ounced by the action committee after the inquest, will be set up with 16 and 23 commissioners appointed from many parts of the world.

Sunday's memorial service at St Paul's church in Deptford High Street will be followed by a procession to the burnt-out house and a Mass said outside it.

Prayers will be led by Mr Herbert Walker, the Jamaican High Commissioner, and Mr Andrew Hawkins, leader of Lewisham Council. The order of service, of which 1,000 have been printed, will contain pictures of the victim and tributes from their parents.

A New Cross 1981 Memorial Trust has been set up by Mrs Arunza Ruddick, who lived in the house and lost two children in the fire, and the other families. They are negotiating with Lewisham Council to take over the house and to turn it into a centre for latch-key children in memory of the dead. The council is expected to decide later this month.

Child kidney victims 'go untreated and die'

By Annabel Ferriman
Health Services Correspondent

A third of children under 15 years of age who develop kidney disease in Britain probably go untreated, according to a lack of facilities, Professor Cyril Chander, professor of paediatric nephrology at Guy's Hospital, London, said yesterday.

About ninety children are believed to develop kidney disease each year, but only 61 were accepted for treatment last year. Doctors do not refer children for treatment if the facilities are not there, he said.

The association was set up in 1970 to press for the establishment of neighbourhood councils in towns and cities in Britain on the model of the parish councils in rural areas.

Council defies refund ruling

Mid Bedfordshire District Council is defying an Ombudsman's ruling that it should refund £1,400 to a woman who bought his council house.

On Monday the Association of Neighbourhood Councils will tell Lord Bellwin, Under Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, that the withdrawal of the Department's £6,000 grant in April, which has already been announced, will lead to closure.

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Landlord raffles his pub

A landlord is to raffle his £175,000 seventeenth century public house in a spot-the-ball competition. Mr Vic Jackson, landlord of the New Found, pub on the outskirts of Hitchin, Hertfordshire, is selling lottery tickets at £100 a time.

The profits will go to Hitchin, Stevenage, Letchworth and Baldock football clubs. Tickets go on sale on Monday.

Princess to attend film premiere

The first solo engagement of the Princess of Wales' spring programme was announced by Buckingham Palace yesterday. On March 8 she will attend the premiere of *The Little Foxes* at the Victoria Palace Theatre, London. The proceeds will go to the Army Benevolent Fund and the Metropolitan Police Combined Benevolent Fund.

THE ASLEF DISPUTE



An Appeal to all our Customers.

Whilst we deeply regret the hardship and inconvenience caused by the present strike action, we ask all our customers to support the stand we are taking to ensure that commitments to alter out-dated working practices are honoured.

Flexible rostering, which is the issue in the ASLEF dispute, is only one of the changes we need to modernise the railway. This programme of change was initiated in agreement with all our Unions in May 1980, and positive commitments on six specific initiatives were made in August last year.

The pay agreement we reached at that time was on the strict understanding that there would be progress in implementing these essential improvements in efficiency. In our present financial position it would have been irresponsible of us to have acted in any other way.

Like railways in all other major countries, British Rail is financially supported by the community as a whole. Directly or indirectly, everyone in Britain

is a customer of British Rail. And everyone contributes to our finances as a tax-payer. That contribution, as our critics often remind us, is now running at more than £2 million a day.

A lot of money.

Which surely means that we have a bounden duty to become as efficient and cost-effective as we reasonably can.

The changes in working practices which underlie the ASLEF dispute are essential to the modernisation of the railway. Modernisation, as we have often argued, needs more public money for investment. This will require a big change in public attitudes to the importance of railways in this country.

But, by our own efforts, we have to *justify* more investment and to *earn* a change in the public standing of the railways.

The point blank refusal of one section of our work force to make any headway on flexible rostering goes to the heart of the matter. ASLEF knew this in August. They understood the argument. And the arithmetic.

We hope you understand why we have to stand firm.



New lease of life for stately home

By a Staff Reporter

Negotiations are for the sale of Llangoed Castle, Gwynedd, one of the finest stately homes in Wales, to an organisation which wants it as a centre for discussions on conservation, and on the arts and sciences.

The organization, Millennium, aims to give the castle a new lease of life in a 10-year plan to turn it into a

conference centre, which would provide local jobs and attract thousands of visitors.

The castle was the first important commission for the architect Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, and he regarded it as his best work.

Designed in 1912 the castle

incorporated a seventeenth-century porch and was built regardless of cost to the highest standards. It stands

beside the River Wye, near Builth Wells. Built in pale brown stone, it has two long galleries, 20 bedrooms, stables and a tower.

Mr H. J. H. Berger, a director of Millennium, said yesterday: "This could be the last opportunity to save this exceptional building." The Historic Buildings Council for Wales will pay half the cost of its restoration.

Ten thousand copies have been printed, with 2,000 being sent to the United States and Canada in readiness for the arrival of the "Operation USA" team comprising Mr Robinson, Mr Taylor, Mrs Norah Bradford, widow of the IRA last November. (The photographs include portraits of a leg blown off during terrorist attack, a head covered in blood, and Mr Taylor having medical treatment after attempting to assassinate him in 1972.)

As a result of protests at the original proposals, the Government also agreed to pay a £7.50 grant for workers under 18 taken on at a wage of between £40 and £45 a week.

Although the scheme did not start operating until January 4, the Department of Employment started taking applications from early last month and interest was much more sluggish in December than the Government had hoped.

A sudden spurt in applications at the turn of the year, however, has led minis-

ters to believe they may be on target in their aim of attracting between 50,600 and 100,000 applications a year to the scheme.

By December 23 only 2,349 applications had been received, but by January 1 the number had increased to 3,572. In the next week they increased by almost 2,000 to produce a total of 5,415 by January 7.

Companies applying for the grant are said to include some large companies, although the department refused to give examples yesterday.

Ministers have been encouraged by a sharp increase in the number of companies recruiting employees under the controversial young workers' scheme.

The scheme, under which employers may seek a £15-a-week grant for every new worker under 18 whom they take on for a weekly wage of less than £40, had attracted 5,415 applications by the end of last week. The payments last for a year.

Devised by Professor Alan Walters, the Prime Minister's economic adviser, the young

workers' scheme was announced last year and was bitterly attacked by the TUC as a new source of cheap labour and a way of further depressing wages.

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Blast in Warsaw kiosk puts troops on edge

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Jan 14

A small bomb explosion destroyed a telephone kiosk near the party Central Committee building in Warsaw yesterday afternoon. Nobody was hurt, though some windscreens and a shopwindow were broken.

The explosion, admitted but played down by the official news agency, is the first to happen since the declaration of martial law a month ago. It may well reinforce those elements on the military council who are understood to have reentered war games against a "premature" loosening of the reins.

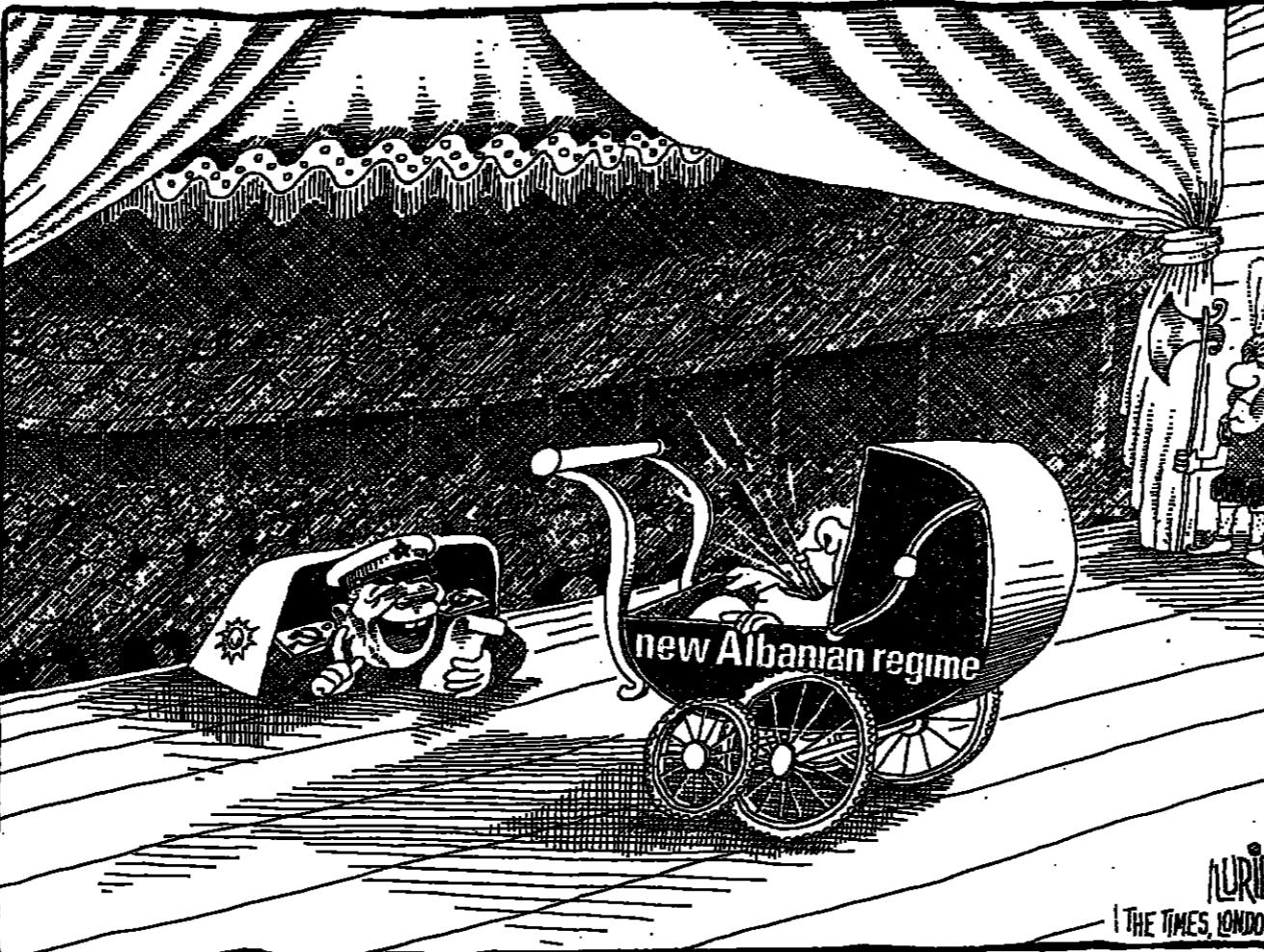
The military presence in Warsaw was strong today, especially around the Central Committee building in the city centre, but it was difficult to judge if the troops had been greatly increased. Some soldiers who three days ago were seen carrying their automatic rifles on their backs have them in the alert position again.

After the imposition of martial law, the Army appeared to have expected some form of partisans-style fighting and deployed soldiers accordingly, defending bridges and vulnerable buildings. The main flashpoints for the Army and militia were always those involving a military — the presence of ammunition, explosive or gas — rather than political threat. It is significant that the main casualties of the "pacification" campaign were miners who had access to lignite.

As these fears proved to be largely groundless, the military council started to redefine the problems faced, relaxing a number of physical restrictions in cities. It was announced two days ago, for example, that theatres and concert halls would reopen on Friday. This may in turn presage a relaxation of the curfew, which now runs from 11 pm to 5 am in the capital.

But the bomb explosion, though it was clearly very small — Warsaw Radio calls it a firecracker — may well change that picture. Fatigues were particularly active in searching car boots today and key buildings such as the state telephone exchange have five military lorries parked outside.

The relaxation of the past few days has in any case been somewhat grudging. Although telephones are back within Warsaw, all



Gala performance

Polish shorthand for the long and sweeping purge of critical civil servants, teachers and journalists, has taken on a new and sharper edge. The quiet tolerance of some Solidarity members in the state administration has disappeared and more and more people are losing their jobs.

That is the picture to emerge from a variety of sources over the past few days. In Szczecin, it is reported unofficially that 2,500 shipyard workers have lost their jobs after refusing to sign documents renouncing Solidarity, and other workers associated with defence-related contracts have also come under pressure to leave the union.

In general, however, the authorities seem to be skirting round the issue of "verifying" workers and have concentrated on weeding out the reform-minded bureaucrats, and the professionals (with the exception of doctors) who could slow down or alter the full impact of martial law.

A Solidarity bulletin, issued on Saturday but which has only just reached correspondents, gives concrete examples. "Special teams," says the bulletin, "are being sent to schools in order to undertake education in civic

duties

interviews have been held with teachers, especially with Solidarity activists and these have been invited to sign declarations of loyalty. . . . News has reached us from Poznan that many headmasters have been removing crucifixes from church schools after the *kuratorium* (school authority) issued a guideline."

Solidarity members in the

West German Chancellor, Herr Helmut Schmidt, the

and the restoration of human rights".

Much of what West Germany had done, he said, had simply not been reported. Its reserve had been misunderstood. West Germany owed gratitude to the United States for putting it on its feet after the war and defending it and Berlin, he criticized many young people who saw a more in the United States' eye and ignored the beam in that of the Soviet Union.

The Western answer to the Polish crisis, he said, should not be a return to the cold war but by means of a "carefully balanced policy to convince the Soviet Union and the present regime in Poland to respect the agreements of the Helsinki final act".

On the question of sanctions, he said Nato had worked out a catalogue of political and economic measures which would be applied by common agreement.

Herr Helmut Kohl, the

Opposition leader, attacked the Chancellor for "damaging the reputation of the Federal Republic" and quoted numerous foreign press comments criticizing the West German line. The Government's policy, he declared, amid opposition applause, was bankrupt. If its view was "business as usual" after the events in Poland, West Germany was really finished.

Herr Schmidt was jeered and heckled by the Opposition. Jeers rose to such a pitch at one point, when Herr Schmidt accused the Opposition of contributing to foreign misunderstandings, that he was prevented from speaking for several minutes

Tougher Schmidt jeered in Bundestag

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, Jan 14

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Peace group takes Foot and Thatcher to task

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, Jan 14

One of the largest delegations of the British peace movement ever to visit the Soviet Union today concluded a 10-day visit here with a call to Mrs Thatcher and Mr Michael Foot, the Labour leader, to meet its delegates and take immediate steps to halt the arms race.

The delegation, comprising 18 members of various peace and disarmament organizations, including Lord Fennell, Brockway, the 93-year-old co-chairman of the World Disarmament Campaign, also called on the Soviet Union, in the absence of action on disarmament in the West, to take a "bold initiative" and cut its strategic nuclear weaponry by 10 per cent.

The group is one of the largest to come here since the Western peace movement began to gather momentum,

and was given considerable publicity by the Russians who invited them. They spent three hours in talks at the Kremlin with Mr Vinti Rubin, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities, and visited Leningrad, Tashkent and Samarkand, where they met Russian Orthodox Patriarch leaders, students, factory workers and teachers as well as representatives of government-backed Soviet Peace Committee.

A press statement today emphasized the "profound differences" between Soviet and British societies, especially in the understanding and treatment of dissent, but it said the delegation wanted to emphasize that joint efforts to stop the nuclear arms race were of overriding importance in view of the threat facing humanity.

Kitson aunt battered to death

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg, Jan 14

In a new twist to the Kitson affair, Mrs Allison Joan Weinberg, the 52-year-old aunt of the British engineer held for five days by South African security police, was found dead yesterday in her flat in central Johannesburg. The police are treating it as a case of murder.

Mrs Weinberg was the sister-in-law of Mr David Kitson, the Briton serving a 20-year jail sentence in a Pretoria prison for sabotage. His son, Mr Steven Kitson, was arrested a week ago after visiting his father on suspicion of being part of a plot to free convicted terrorists.

The younger Kitson was released without charge on Tuesday and put on a flight to England where on arrival he complained of being beaten and otherwise mal-

Albanians deny death of Hoxha

From Dessa Trevisan, Belgrade, Jan 14

Albanian diplomats have denied that Mr Enver Hoxha, the party leader, was killed in a revenge shooting after the death last month of Mr Mehmet Shehu, the Prime Minister.

It was reported at the time of Mr Shehu's death that he had committed suicide. Mr Hoxha has not been seen since then.

The diplomats said here and in Western capitals that rumours about Mr Hoxha's death were originating in Yugoslavia, which had its own particular interest in spreading misinformation around the world.

A picture of Mr Hoxha in the Albanian Party newspaper *Zeri Popullit* on December 25, a week after Shehu's alleged suicide, was presented as evidence that the party leader was safe and alive and, moreover, visiting an art exhibition.

He was in an armchair, surrounded by his colleagues. Mr Ramiz Alia, a Politburo member who is now regarded as the second man in the hierarchy, and Mr Kadri Hasic, Defence Minister and Shehu's nephew who, according to rumours, avenged his uncle by shooting Mr Hoxha on January 5.

Parliament is meeting and the Albanian envoys said the session would provide evidence that Mr Hoxha is alive and in charge, as he will be there when the new Prime Minister is confirmed.

The diplomats said that lorries going through Yugoslavia to Western Europe no longer carry portraits of Mr Hoxha, the explanation being that Yugoslavia's custom officials were delaying vehicles with the portrait.

Neither is it denied that Shehu had disgraced Albania by committing suicide which was apparently regarded as treason and sufficient reason to deny him any honours. Albania, said a diplomat, does not forgive anyone who leaves the battlefield and the services Shehu had rendered for 40 years, 28 of them as Prime Minister, had been annulled by his death.

This is the official explanation, but it leaves many questions, the main being why Albania might turn to ease its economic difficulties. Hitherto, Mr Hoxha has preached self-reliance.

Albania is perhaps unique in claiming to have no foreign debts, except that China, her last mentor, says it gave huge amounts of aid which was never repaid.

The Albanian constitution forbids the Government to borrow abroad, except from friendly countries which subscribe to the same ideology.

As things stand, there seems to be no country that qualifies, except Vietnam, with which Albania maintains close relations, but which is not in a position to help.

Reports about a power struggle, that Mr Shehu never went anywhere without a gun and the way he died have been doing the rounds of various capitals. Many seem to have originated in Belgrade, where events in Albania are being watched closely.

The reports are part of the psychological and verbal warfare which is going on since the eruption of Albanian ethnic riots in the Kosovo region of Yugoslavia last spring.

The Yugoslavs blamed Albania and Mr Hoxha personally for inciting the Yugoslav Albanians to revolt. They also accused him of laying claims to the Kosovo region, with the ultimate design of creating a greater Albanian state.

However bad their relations with Mr Hoxha, the Yugoslavs nevertheless feel safer with him than with someone new and unknown. They say the policy of self-reliance has come to an end and see signs of a power struggle which would weaken Mr Hoxha, leaving Albania to the West or back to the East. The latter clearly worries Belgrade most.

Milo in hospital

Palma, — John Miro, aged 80, the Spanish painter, has had a pacemaker installed and is recovering well in hospital, doctors said here.

Los Angeles. — The former lover of Lee Marvin, the

convicted spy, has been charged with conspiring to commit eight bank robberies.

Mr Boyce, aged 28, was

convicted in 1977 of selling

satellite secrets from the

Central Intelligence Agency

to the Soviet Union and

sentenced to 40 years in

prison. He escaped in Janu-

ary 1980 and was recaptured

18 months later. Gloria White

and Calvin Robinson are

accused with him of conspiring

to rob the banks of more

than \$27,000 (about £14,000).

Action against Lee Marvin off

Los Angeles. — The former lover of Lee Marvin, the

convicted spy, has

abandoned her attempt to obtain a

\$104,000 (about £50,000)

settlement from him, her

lawyer said.

Michelle Triola Marvin,

who would not try to overturn an

appeals court ruling that Mr

Marvin did not have to pay

her the money, Mr Marvin

Mitchelson, the lawyer, ad-

ded.

Draft dodger is granted refuge

Canberra. — Australia has

accepted a South African

draft dodger as a refugee, Mr

MacPhee, the Immigration

Minister, announced

earlier this month that Australia had

previously granted asylum to

at least a dozen South

African draft dodgers.

The 24-year-old refugee is

using a pseudonym to protect

his family in South Africa.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Husband offers £112,000

Rome, Jan 14. — Mr Stephen May, the British businessman whose wife vanished more than a year ago with a woman friend near Sanremo, has offered a reward of up to 250,000 lire (£112,000) for information leading to their recovery.

The wife, Jeanette, and her friend, Signora Gabriella Guerini, have been victim of an accident. It was very difficult, Mr May said, to believe in such a possibility. He and his wife's family had faced false hopes during a year of uncertainty.

Mr May outlined the facts he had. "At some time during the afternoon or evening of Saturday, November 29, 1980, the black peugeot 104 in which the two women had been driving was left locked and drivable with valuable property inside about 2 km beyond the Maddalena mountain and Acquacalda, between Sarnano and Acquacalda and about 4 km from Sasse-tetto.

"It is evident that the women spent some time in an empty house a short distance away after leaving the car. There were signs of available wood being burned for warmth and as a signal fire on a front balcony. There the trail ends".

Vandals destroy priceless relics

Peking. — Priceless relics have been destroyed in the northern Chinese city of Luoyang; but the authorities seem unwilling to act against the culprits, the *People's Daily* said.

Last year, vandals chopped off the heads and hands of more than 60 statues in the fifth century Longmen caves, one of China's most famous Buddhist sites, the newspaper added. In 1978, vandals destroyed more than 2,100 pottery stored in unguarded caves near Luoyang.

Critics choose Meryl Streep



Spy accused of bank robberies

Boise, Idaho. — Christopher Boyce, the convicted spy, has been charged with conspiring to commit eight bank robberies.

Mr Boyce, aged 28, was convicted in 1977 of selling

satellite secrets from the

Central Intelligence Agency

British hostility stalls EEC budget package

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Jan 14

The latest plans to restructure the finances and agricultural policy of the EEC ran into strong opposition from Britain when the Community's foreign ministers met in Brussels today.

The meeting was called as a last attempt to reach a political agreement on guidelines for reform before the annual agricultural price fixing round, which starts next week. Failure to reach agreement at the meeting will involve further negotiations in the price-fixing procedure.

The plans under discussion were drawn up by Mr Gaston Thorn, the Commission President, at the request of the foreign ministers during their meeting in London a month ago to study the four key issues which still stand in the way of a final agreement.

Although proposals on two of these issues concerning the Mediterranean produce and the growth of agricultural spending, could be agreed, Britain is far from happy about the suggestions put forward on the other two sticking points. These are budget contributions and milk production, in both of which Britain is involved.

Mr Leo Tindemans, the Belgian Minister for External Relations who is president of the council, carried out what was called "the milk" round of European capitals before today's meeting to sound out views on the proposals. He found a general agreement on the urgent need to compromise, despite British hostility to the milk and budget.

Mr Thorn has sought to reconcile the two apparently rival needs of the Community which are to help small farmers and at the same time to limit milk production. His suggestion is that the cost of paying for milk surpluses should be shared among the dairy farmers, with producers paying more as they produce more.

Britain, supported by the Netherlands and Denmark, argues that this penalizes efficient farmers and runs counter to the spirit of the budget mechanism is fairly worked out now.

In May, 1980, Mrs Thatcher forced her partners to agree the temporary deal by blocking agricultural price increases. Her negotiators this year are expected to be prepared to adopt similar tactics to win a permanent agreement. In consequence, Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, went into today's meeting prepared to give nothing away which would prejudice agreement along the lines Britain is seeking.

ANTHRAX

kills after 1,300 years

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Jan 14

Anthrax spores that lay dormant for 13 centuries in the soil of Siberia infected a cow after Soviet archaeologists had excavated the site of a settlement decimated by the disease in the seventh century, a Soviet newspaper reported today.

Sovetskaya Rossiya said that veterinary surgeons near the industrial town of Perm recently diagnosed the highly infectious disease in a cow but were unable to trace its source, as anthrax had officially been declared eradicated in the area.

It was then discovered that in the summer an archaeological dig near a river had uncovered evidence of an ancient epidemic in the area that had killed large numbers of animals and humans and prompted those remaining alive to burn their houses and abandon the site.

Emergency measures were taken to stop the disease spreading on the collective farm, and there were no further reported infections. The paper said medical experts, called in to investigate, were now able to give a guaranteed the disease would not return.

Perm is not far from Sverdlovsk, where the Soviet authorities admitted two years ago that an outbreak of anthrax had killed a large number of people in 1972. The Russians blamed the disease on infected meat, but the United States maintained that the spores were released after an accident at an establishment manufacturing biological weapons.

Washington has never regarded the Soviet explanation as satisfactory.

How Wells Fargo was taken for \$21m ride

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles, Jan 14

The flamboyant Californian boxing promoter, Mr Harold Smith and Mr Sammie Marshall, the man who acted as his matchmaker, were convicted on Wednesday by a federal jury of embezzeling \$21.3m (£11.2m) from the Wells Fargo Bank, in what prosecutors claimed was the biggest theft in United States banking history.

An eight man, four woman jury returned verdicts of guilty after eight days of deliberation after more than five weeks of testimony. The jury was told that the money, except for about \$5m generated by Mr Smith's fight promotions, was embezzled by Mr Ben Lewis, described as the "inside man" at the bank. However, Lewis became the star prosecution witness in the case.

Mr Smith, who rose quickly to the ranks of the world's top boxing promoters in a two-year period, was convicted on 20 charges of

Doctors demand more cash in oil scandal

Richard Wigg reports on developments in Spain's cooking oil scandal, in the first of two articles from our correspondents in Madrid.

Six doctors heading the official scientific commission into the nine-month-old poisonous cooking oil tragedy have urged the Spanish Government and Parliament to provide the money and organization needed for "real solution."

With the death toll now more than 240 they say the tragedy will continue to be an enormous public health problem for a long time to come. There are risks, they say, in the next few months of new complications developing among the victims, even among patients now recovering satisfactorily.

The Government is told it would commit a grave error, merely compensating existing victims without providing simultaneously the means to "prevent an extension of the damage" caused by the epidemic.

Because Britain has received significantly more than estimated from the Community under the terms of the temporary 1980 agreement to reduce its contributions, Mr Thorn suggests that contributions in future should be based on the actual figures at the end of each year rather than on predictions.

This runs counter to the British view that the budget problem should not be under constant negotiation, but should be resolved by producing a permanent mechanism. Although Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, argued at the London European summit for a seven-year deal, the British Government's view is that any deal should automatically be renewable, provided the budget mechanism is fairly worked out now.

The doctors' report has only now been leaked to the press, although the appeal for action to Señor Manuel Nuñez, the Health Minister, was handed into the parliamentary commission investigating the tragedy just before Christmas.

So far there have been no public signs of any response.



Children under treatment at a Madrid hospital for the toxic oil syndrome

Señor Jesus Sánchez, the Health Minister when the scandal broke, was dropped in last month's Cabinet reshuffle, but doctors concerned by the handling of the administrative problems have noted that Dr Luis Valenciano, former Director-General of Public Health, has since been promoted to Deputy Secretary of Health.

"The grave toxic epidemic has shown dramatically the already well known structural deficiencies, but these cannot excuse anyone from the obligation to face up to the problems with the utmost determination to find real solutions," the doctors said.

They reported that the lungs of those affected were now developing a chronic pathology with hypertension and probably diffuse interstitial fibrosis while there was a danger of new symptoms, which they did not define, appearing in patients apparently now recovering.

The doctors are still emphasizing that enormous rehabilitational needs of patients have yet to be met.

Meanwhile, the official theory that adulterated rapeseed oil, imported for industrial use, was sold for human consumption last spring, remains to be questioned.

In Bilbao a family has fallen ill with all the typical symptoms in spite of repeated official laboratory tests which found the oil they bought and consumed was safe.

Amnesty report rejected

Pakistan claims only 62 political detainees

From Hasan Akhtar, Islamabad, Jan 14

Mr Mahmood Haroon, the Pakistan Interior Minister, today rejected the report of Amnesty International on the state of political and human rights in Pakistan and accused Amnesty and some other agencies of being highly prejudiced against his country.

Speaking in the newly-formed Federal Council (Majlis-i-Shoora) on the threat to Pakistan's security, Mr Haroon said that the number of political arrests reported by Amnesty was highly exaggerated. He said that at present the Government held 481 people against whom cases for anti-state activities were being processed and 62 others were detained pending investigation. He said that these 62 could be considered political detainees.

Amnesty, reporting large scale torture and detention on political grounds in Pakistan, had stated that the Government was not willing to let its representatives meet them to ascertain facts.

Mr Haroon accused extremists of the late Mr Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party and those belonging to the al-Zulfikar party of being paid agents of foreign forces bent upon undermining the security of Pakistan, although he did not name the forces.

He said that anti-state activities had increased since the armed intervention by the Soviet Union in Afghanistan two years ago.

He alleged that the executed Prime Minister's sons, Mr Murtaza Bhutto and Mr Shah Nawaz Bhutto, were master-minding al-Zulfikar's terrorist activities in Pakistan confirmation.

In spite of Mr Haroon's emphatic assertion that there were no more political detainees in Pakistan beyond those he mentioned, a well-known Urdu language newspaper a few weeks ago quoted a senior police officer as saying that about 10,000 people had been rounded up in the Rawalpindi division alone in connexion with maintenance of public order.

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From Runway 36 to disaster — the seconds which spelled life or death in the frozen Potomac River

The hero of flight 90 — he died to save five lives

By Christopher Thomas and Michael Hamlyn in New York and Nicholas Ashford in Washington

Air Florida flight 90 from Washington to Fort Lauderdale and Tampa was scheduled to leave the capital's antiquated and congested National Airport at 2.15 pm local time. By 2 pm all 71 passengers and three infants were waiting in the departure lounge listening to repeated announcements of delays.

Nothing had taken off for an hour while snow ploughs fought to clear the runways and airport workers sprayed de-icer on stranded aircraft. At around 3 pm a decision was apparently taken that weather conditions had improved enough for flights to resume, although the blizzard continued.

The passengers filed into 21 rows of seats in the Boeing 737 leaving 41 seats unoccupied. The three stewardesses on board, Donna Adams, Kelly Duncan and Marilyn Nichols, all in their mid-twenties, walked up and down the aisles serving light refreshments.

For the next 90 minutes Captain Larry Wheaton, aged 35, and his co-pilot, Mr Roger Pettit, both from Miami, apologized repeatedly for the further delay. Then to everybody's relief, take-off was announced over the aircraft's loud-speaker system. At 4.25 pm flight 90 left the gate and moved through the heavy, falling snow to runway 36, which is 6,870ft long and the airport's longest. A few minutes later the control tower gave clearance and the aircraft, bearing the blue and white insignia of Air Florida sped out of sight into the blizzard.

As it happened, it was one of the first aircraft to take off after the closure of

time to about half a mile. Captain Wheaton himself was to decide whether conditions were sufficiently good for him to attempt a takeoff within guidelines approved by the FAA.

Disaster was seconds away, but even in that time some passengers had a sense of the danger. Mr Joseph Stiley, a private pilot, was thumbing through paperwork with his secretary, when he suddenly turned to his secretary and said: 'We are not going to make it. We are going in.' I had a pretty good indication that things were not going right soon after we started down the runway. We didn't have the speed it then seemed like he (the pilot) had to make the decision to go, so we took off. We got up a little bit. It didn't climb like a normal 737. Then I remembered the first impact, then a second impact, a moment or two later, and I went unconscious.'

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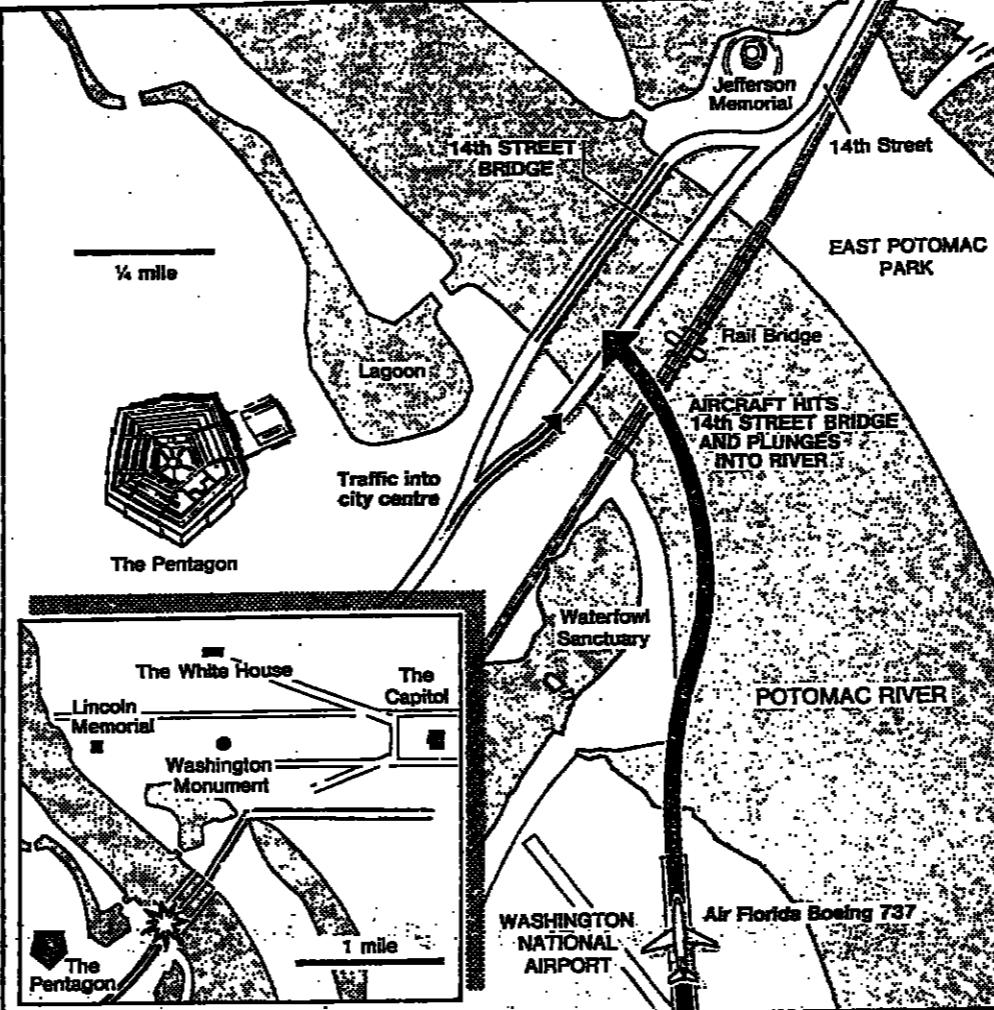
As it happened, it was one of the first aircraft to take off after the closure of



The scattered remains of cars litter the 14th Street bridge over the Potomac. Six people died when the airliner scythed through the rush-hour traffic jam cutting off the tops of several vehicles



A woman hangs from a helicopter rescue rope above the airliner wreck. The winch team delved into the remains of the fuselage lying among chunks of ice on the surface of the river to lift out survivors, many of them still strapped to their seats



plane sort of tumbled into the water, and you could see pieces hit the ice and bounce in the air, and then hit the bridge."

The next view, at 4.35 pm, was from the ground. As the pilot struggled to clear the first span of the road bridge it sheared the tops off several cars and a lorry.

"I heard it coming," said Mr Lloyd Creger, a Justice Department employee who was travelling along the northern span of the plane.

"I couldn't see anything. It was snowing. Then I saw the plane coming out of the sky. The nose was up, the tail was down. It was so loud I couldn't hear myself scream. And then," Mr Creger added, "there was no sound. You couldn't even hear the plane go into the water."

According to experienced rescue workers a strong swimmer could have lasted 5 to 10 minutes before his arms and legs became numb and he drowned. Those

with something to hang on to could have survived for anything up to 90 minutes but the shock would have killed many outright.

Mr Stiley said: "I was looking out of the side window. I knew there were bridges down there but I couldn't see them. There was no time for any pilot message. When he regained consciousness in the water, he saw four other people, one of them his secretary, get out through a hole ripped in the fuselage. The biggest problem was taking off the stupid seat belt. One of the other men said he was still strapped in — and I couldn't do anything to help him. It seemed that everybody had their legs broken."

It was several minutes before the first police car arrived to see Flight 90 sitting on the water surrounded by large chunks of broken ice, before it slid beneath the surface.

According to experienced rescue workers a strong swimmer could have lasted 5 to 10 minutes before his arms and legs became numb and he drowned. Those

two in the water. One woman had apparently been thrown some distance from the crash. He saw her manage to swim to a piece of wreckage where she was rescued.

The first ambulance to arrive at the bridge were from the Virginia side of the river. Helicopters arrived at about the same time and many people were plucked from the water.

One woman lost her grip and plunged back into the river and a firefighter dived in after her. He pulled her safely ashore.

An elderly man aboard the jet sacrificed his life by pushing five other passengers to safety before he presumably went under the ice and drowned.

"He made everyone else go first," said Donald Usher the pilot of the rescue helicopter that plucked five people from the river.

"He could have gone on the first trip," said Mr Usher. "We threw the ring to him first but he passed it to somebody else," a man

who was bleeding badly from a head injury.

"We went back five times, and each time he kept passing the ring to someone else, including three ladies who were hanging on to the tail section."

Finally after making several trips and plucking other people from the water the helicopter returned to pick up the man who Mr Usher called "number 6".

"We stayed there for ten minutes just in the hopes he had crawled into the main part of the fuselage and found an air pocket. We stayed there quite a while looking for him and then it became obvious he had gone under."

"We really want to know who he was. That gentleman put everyone else ahead of himself. He is the real hero of this whole thing. There's no doubt about it. If you were in his situation, a hundred yards from shore and knowing that every minute you were closer to freezing to death could you do it? I really don't think I could."

An elderly man was seen under the ice by rescue workers. He watched the rescuers trying to get to him as his life was slipping away, said Salvation Army major Harold Anderson.

"He was alive when police saw him through the ice, and he saw the rescue workers trying to get to him to get him out of the water," Mr Anderson said.

"He was trying frantically to get out, but by the time they got the ice broken he was gone. They couldn't revive him."

Mr Hamilton, still in the water, became separated from a group which was being rescued. He kept hearing shouts from people on the bridge to "hang in there".

Then a rescue helicopter came over head and dropped the lifebelt that saved him.

He does not remember much of what happened next until he reached the Arlington Hospital a few miles from the scene. He was calm and lucid as he spoke to reporters yesterday, despite an ugly gash over his right eye, a bloodied nose, his right arm broken in a sling, and his left arm in a splint.

On the shore many ordinary citizens were trying to help the rescue. Mr Lemmy Skutnik, aged 28, of Lorton, Virginia, dived into the river when a woman lost her grip on a helicopter line and fell back into the water. "She cried out for help and



Using any available craft rescuers make their way across the ice-bound Potomac to the remains of the fuselage.

Snow and Arctic winds to blame

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, Jan 14

Bad weather is at least partly to blame for the crash. A low pressure area swirling around the Gulf of Mexico formed into a storm over New Orleans on Tues-

day. During the afternoon it dumped unaccustomed amounts of snow over the Gulf states and then tracked north-east during the night giving Atlanta, Georgia, its first real taste of snow this winter.

By morning the storm was off the Virginia coast and it was snowing heavily in Washington. At 1 pm the Federal Aviation Authority, which is responsible for Washington National airport, decided that the five inches of snow on the runway was too hazardous and the airport was closed for snow clearance.

The bitter conditions are blamed for at least 178 deaths, including an Alabama man who was killed when frozen tree limbs fell on him. Schools and factories are closed in many cities from Chicago, where temperatures have dropped to a record -26 Fahrenheit, to Atlanta, which recorded its lowest temperature this century.

Weathermen have glibly announced temperatures of 70, 80 even 100 degrees below zero, Fahrenheit, including "the wind chill factor". Wind chill is based on the concept that the more wind you have, the faster it can carry heat from the body, thus an increase in wind speed is equivalent to a drop in temperature. "It has limited application but it is one of those things the public likes", one meteorologist said.

At football matches in Cincinnati on Sunday it was reported that because of a wind chill factor of -59 Fahrenheit the breath of the fans obscured the view of the game. Chicago firemen fighting a spectacular factory blaze with a wind chill temperature of -100 Fahrenheit found the water soaking their uniforms and turning immediately to crusts of ice.

In the Gulf states yesterday's snow was greeted with surprised amazement at first. In Jackson, Mississippi, Mr William Winter, the Governor, handed hot chocolate to revellers who built a snowman on the lawn in front of the Governor's Mansion. But frozen pipes, blocked roads and snapped power lines turned earlier curiosity into severe concern by the end of the day.

The snowstorm caused havoc in the north-east. In New York it took more than five hours to drive from Wall Street to the George Washington Bridge, roughly eight miles. In New Jersey the rush-hour did not end until after 11 pm.

Elsewhere in the north-east, Buffalo, New York, was digging out from a record 24-hour snowfall of 28 in. In New York City, the Heat Complaint Bureau received more than 10,000 reports of flats without heat.

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THE ARTS

Interview

Aiming for people's consciences

Over the next couple of years John Dexter could be dropping anchor quite frequently at Puddle Dock, home of the recently reopened Mermaid Theatre. He remains as Director of Productions at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, but he has made no secret of the fact that he has been looking for a semi-permanent base in the non-lyric theatre to share his time.

It could have been the Shakespeare Festival in Stratford, Ontario, but an outburst of Canadian nationalism put a stop to that. It could have been the National Theatre, but Dexter's ties with the South Bank appear to have been loosening: for a long time he was an associate director, but has only been staging a play a year there, *Galileo* and *The Shoemaker's Holiday* being his last two productions, and nothing is scheduled for the immediate future. So Puddle Dock it will be.

Dexter made his debut there on February 17 with a new play, *The Portage to San Cristobal* of A.H., adapted by Christopher Hampton from George Steiner's novella of the same somewhat clumsy title. Professor Steiner's first piece of fiction since *Anno Domini* originally appeared in *The Kenyon Review* in 1979. A year later it came out in abridged form under the auspices of *Granada* in this country and drew a cantankerous notice, worth of Beckmesser himself, in *The New Statesman*. Last spring, when Faber issued *Portage* in soft-back, the reception ranged from the respectful to the highly enthusiastic.

George Steiner has had links with the Mermaid, mainly through

It is, reckons John Dexter, the best new play he has read in twenty years, and the most demanding for almost as long. John Higgins talks to the eminent director about his debut at the Mermaid.

being a patron of its junior offshoot the Molecule Theatre, and Lord Miles has in the past often pressed him for a play. Steiner's response to the last such request was to send off the appropriate copy of *The Kenyon Review*, which Miles in turn dispatched to Christopher Hampton. Dexter reckons that the resulting script is the best new play he has seen in twenty years.

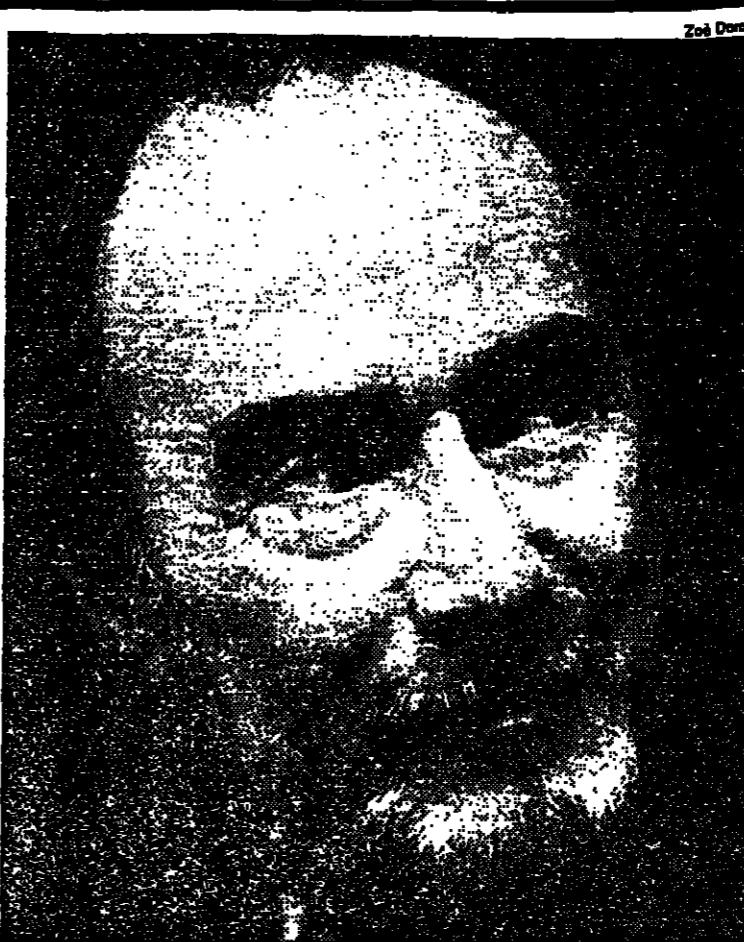
A.H. of the title is Adolf Hitler, who, at the age of 90, is tracked down to the Brazilian rain-forests by a tiny Jewish expeditionary force. The body in the Berlin bunker is that of a carefully planted double, shot through the mouth but still revealed as a fake through dental evidence. Steiner crosscuts between the leech-infested swamps and those in high diplomatic places who have been spending much of their lives Hitler-watching. But at the core of the play and of the book are two mighty monologues, one from the Jew Lieber, who produces a litany of Hitler's viler crimes, and the other from A.H. himself, who claims sole credit for the foundation of the state of Israel — "The Reich began Israel" — after pointing out that it was the British who invented concentration camps in the Boer War. The casting of A.H. is obvi-

ously crucial. I sent the script to Olivier in Brighton and by the next post to Alec McCowen, admitting that it had gone elsewhere. Alec's reaction was characteristic. "I'm glad to be second choice to Larry", he said. And Alec will be playing the part.

"The staging will be difficult, particularly in the Mermaid's open theatre. In physical terms it's probably the most demanding play I've done since *The Kitchen*. The audience must be made to listen as intently as an Old Bailey jury. The facts are presented and the issue is not whether Hitler might be innocent but whether the spectators are guilty of indifference. It is demanded of everybody that they check up morally on where they are now. At the same time it is an adventure story. We have to find a point midway between *J. Robert Oppenheimer* and *The Boys from Brazil*."

So far George Steiner has done little more than approve the script. "I hope he'll come down to the Mermaid and do a question and answer session with the cast — there is no point in my acting as a go-between. We first met only a little time ago and it was like encountering a mixture of G.B.S. and Wittgenstein. But I've been an amateur for many years. Tony Harrison introduced me to his work when he was translating *The Misanthrope* for me during the National's Waterloo Road days. I've always maintained that all my education has come via the theatre."

Dexter reckons there could be another production at the Mermaid before the end of 1982,



Dexter: "I've always maintained that all my education has come via the theatre"

followed by two or maybe three next year. In between while there are intervals at the Met, *Don Carlo* (Dominique sings the title role, which he has not done for a little while), *Parade*, *Vespi siciliani* and *Enfuerung*. The partnership with David Hockney, which moved into round two just before

Christmas with the Stravinsky triple bill, is likely to be resumed in the mid-Eighties. Hockney has announced that he is taking two years off from the theatre to paint and, possibly, move into sculpture. If Dexter is happy at his Puddle Dock anchorage then he will be prepared to wait.

Theatre

Playing the Game

King's Head

The line "What's it to you?" has always struck me as an infallible sign of mediocre stagecraft, and no doubt my view of Jeffrey Thomas's play is coloured by the fact that he uses it twice.

Playing the Game is another fearless exposure of boardroom sport, dwelling on petty graft and internal politics, and leading inexorably to the moment where some big shot sides up to the star player aside with the proposition: "The game's turning into big business... there might be a little something for you."

Mr Thomas varies this formula by giving his piece the relatively uncommercialized setting of a Welsh rugby club, and by running his first theme in tandem with the theme of sport as a means of holding women at bay. The lights go up on the sight of the new captain, Keith, in bed with the sex-starved wife of the club chairman. But no sooner does she set foot on the hallowed male territory of the committee room than Keith rapidly brings the affair to a halt.

At such moments, Mr Thomas pays the price of aiming at two targets instead of one. Keith may turn against Nancy because she has broken a sexual taboo, or because she may spoil his chances as a player. There is no way of telling; and so his character remains undefined — elusive, team-spirited, mean and kindly by turns; all you can say of him is that he wants to get on.

The same goes for all the others. Mr Thomas has taken to heart the rule that a dramatic character is a man who wants something. Les, the chairman, wants to become a tour manager; Kevin, the thrusting young treasurer, wants Les's job; Nancy wants an active bed partner; Evie, the old club secretary, wants to preserve the status quo, particularly the rule excluding women from the pre-match parties.

The stress of these competing egos works havoc with the story-line, yielding committee meetings littered with digressions and trailing plot-pointers, manufactured crises where (twice) characters conveniently burst on just in time to see a woman being knocked down, and still interventions by the author such as a scene where an angry stripper (Arbel Jones) does herself out of a night's work by telling a few home truths about all-male get-togethers.

Gruffudd Jones's production heavily underlines the play's distaste for the rugby fraternity, old and new, offering at best one nicely withdrawn performance by Dories Thomas and an unavoidably florid chairman by Terence Davies.

Irving Wardle

Opera

Charming Cavalli

Egisto

Theatre Royal, Glasgow

Leppard's orchestral realization, less extravagant than his first ventures into early opera, uses the euphony of a string orchestra sparingly, for such grand moments as Climen's lament (on a ground close to that of "When I am laid in earth" from Purcell's *Dido*) and Aegistheus's mad scene.

Monteverdi's continuo can be quite plain; Cavalli's profits from digressions and trailing plot-pointers, manufactured crises where (twice) characters conveniently burst on just in time to see a woman being knocked down, and still interventions by the author such as a scene where an angry stripper (Arbel Jones) does herself out of a night's work by telling a few home truths about all-male get-togethers.

It has taken those three

variously fraught years to

assemble and prepare the

necessary forces. On Wednesday *Egisto* had its British

premiere, one that showed

Scottish Opera back in smart

shape. The production will be

toured quite widely (London in March), including a visit to

Venice where *Egisto* was first

performed in 1643. Tomorrow's performance will be

broadcast on Radio 3, and a

television film is on the way.

Egisto was the sixth of

Cavalli's 32 known operas, a

representative sample of his

art. The plot is quite simple,

almost frivolous. Two pairs

of lovers have been separated

and re-paired neatly with

their opposite numbers. The

gods, notably Apollo and

Venus, with the aid of Cupid,

conspire to restore their

original pairing.

According to the fashion

of the period, love scenes

alternate with comedy and

solemnity, and extra charac-

ters diversify the action:

Beauty and Sensuality, Night

and Dawn, Phaedra and other

heroines who died for love,

the Seasons, Hipparchus,

where the action takes

place, and his elderly nanny

(a travesty part, here excellently sung, and portrayed

with sublime comic tact, by

Francis Egerton).

The simple story moves

slowly, but Cavalli's music,

as usual, is spirited, melodic,

charming; the solemn

scenes of divine intervention

in the affairs of mankind are

chiefly likely to hang fire,

though Cox and Klein offer

compensating colour and

movement. Klein's permanent

set is a delight to

observe, a Zodiac disc in blue

and white, with flowers and

twinkling lights, and with

planets overhead, gods

descending from the flies,

geysers of steam, plentiful

spectacles.

William Mann

Having used up three of the four acts without deciding between formality and fantasy, it ends up by becoming merely ridiculous in its presentation of the entomb-

ment.

Where it does succeed is in partly solving some of the perennial problems of the

Triumph scene by avoiding

the usual breathless pro-

cessions, for instance, and

incorporating the dancers

into a ritual instead of a

diversion. The chorus sound-

ed better than most of the

principals on this occasion

though it was John

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The Afro-wigged Aida was

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Having used up three of the four acts without deciding between formality and fantasy, it ends up by becoming merely ridiculous in its presentation of the entomb-

ment.

Where it does succeed is in partly solving some of the

perennial problems of the

Triumph scene by avoiding

the usual breathless pro-

cessions, for instance, and

incorporating the dancers

into a ritual instead of a

diversion. The chorus sound-

ed better than most of the

principals on this occasion

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P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

PUBLIC INEFFICIENCY

This week's admission by its chairman that British Telecom last year achieved absolutely no improvements in productivity and double the national rate of price inflation at least had the virtue of honesty. But confessions of delinquency are of little consolation to the victim public unless as a prelude to better behaviour. On past experience in the public sector there are few grounds to hope for internally generated improvements in efficiency. Managers find a cosy convenience in going along with lax work practices and have even, as in Gas, joined with the unions to resist efforts by Government to shake them up. As with local government, the public industries have increasingly been run for the benefit and convenience of those who work in them, with too little concern for either their customers or the tax-payers who finance their extravagance.

It is of course a crude simplification to think of the nationalized sector as a single animal. It contains manufacturing, mining and services; monopolies, quasi-monopolies and industries experiencing fierce international competition. Much of it is subject to 5 per cent targets of real return on capital which would prove beyond much of private industry. The capital intensive parts of it with heavy fixed costs suffer particularly badly during a recession. Degrees of inefficiency vary. But by international standards and most objective criteria none is satisfactorily efficient. The postal services, electricity and gas servicing and all public utility retailing have grown fat and lazy under monopolistic protection. Last year British Telecom allowed a 5 per cent increase in its real unit costs, as against a target reduction of 5 per cent, which is disgraceful.

This is not to say that the pursuit of harsh efficiency should be the sole and sensible objective for a nationalized industry. Social considerations need to be taken into account, especially

in the transport sector. Indeed efficiency and humane service are not always in conflict: in the United States, Bell telephone provides extensive cheap public telephones, made possible by the low unit costs of the whole system. What is required, and what we do not have, are nationalized industries which are both cheap because they are efficiently and commercially run and are also humane in the sense that they accept social considerations which do not necessarily apply to private capitalist enterprise.

Here then is a substantial chunk of the British economy whose inefficiency is a drag on our national performance and a constant irritant to individual customers. For the Government, which was elected on a commitment to rectify this situation, the problem has become more acute because of this sector's inflationary impact. Managers have made high pay settlements and then been able to recoup the cost by high price increases passed on to their captive consumers. In 1981 employees in public corporations earned on average nine per cent more than employees in the private sector; in 1979 the gap was only four per cent. Price and wage inflation in the whole public sector last year were roughly double the rate in the private sector. Had it not been so, Mrs Thatcher would now have single figure inflation, with all that implies for interest rates, tax rates and public borrowing requirement. Politically and economically her Government would already be a success in terms of its own priority of nationalized industries to the Monopolies Commission.

Rectifying that failure would be a fruitful objective for the second half of Mrs. Thatcher's administration. The public monopolies will of course prove resistant to measures designed to make their privileged lives less comfortable. But a determined government could succeed.

The first requirement of

such a programme would be to hasten the process of increasing competition. This does not mean irrelevant gestures such as the disposal of North Sea oil assets but, for example, speeding decisions to open up the telecommunications markets and to grasp the nettle of gas retailing.

Equally important, but more difficult, is to develop central government control systems which prevent the public monopolies from simply passing on to the customer the costs of their overmanning and wage capitations. External borrowing limits are already assisting in this but they are a very blunt instrument with undesirable consequences for major investments in growth areas which would attract private participation. What may be required is some technique of labour cost limits which prevents industries from inflating their current costs beyond a target ceiling, thus forcing them to finance higher pay by increased productivity. Greater efficiency would also generate internal resources for investment: each 2 per cent off the sector wage bill would produce an additional £250 million for investment annually, sufficient to finance many of the projects currently under serious discussion.

Other fruitful measures would be to streamline and strengthen the powers of the Nationalized Industry Consumer Council to insist on the nationalized industries providing more information and meaningful accounts; and to make more references of nationalized industries to the Monopolies Commission.

Taken together these measures should elicit a better performance from the nationalized sector. In return the Government should more openly acknowledge its crucial importance to Britain's whole social and economic infrastructure and should be prepared to invest in it more public money and allow it to borrow more freely on the private markets.

GREECE AS THE ODD MAN OUT

Mr Papandreu's government in Greece has lost little time in making its presence felt within the western groupings. This week it refused to associate itself with parts of the Nato communiqué on Poland; and that was only the latest in a series of similar moves. In December it held up for a few days agreement on a letter welcoming Spain's application to become a member of Nato. It later insisted on blocking altogether the publication of a communiqué at the end of a meeting of the alliance's defence ministers, the first time that had ever happened.

Within the European Community Greece has refused to agree to a condemnation of Libya for its intervention in Chad; and it held up agreement on the participation of Britain, France, Italy and the Netherlands in the peace-keeping force for Sinai. Earlier this month Mr Papandreu summarily sacked Mr Fotis, the deputy Foreign Minister, for approving a communiqué on Poland by the Foreign Ministers of the Ten, leaving some doubt as to how far Greece was bound by the document.

There is a clear pattern of behaviour, suggesting that Mr Papandreu's Greece not only cannot be counted on to share positions adopted by its partners, but that it sees a positive advantage in being the odd one out. This is not

altogether surprising. The Pasok party came to power with a neutralist ideology, and a commitment to pull Greece out of Nato's integrated military structure, as well as leave the European Community. In the run-up to last year's election Mr Papandreu went to some pains to qualify these commitments; and since he has been in power he has done nothing to suggest that he is on the point of leaving either Nato or the Community. He apparently believes that for the time being, at least, Greece is better off inside both organizations. But for ideological and for nationalistic reasons he wishes to assert a special identity for Greece within them both.

Ideologically, he has to show his more left-wing supporters that he is not the captive of Nato. This has the added bonus of appealing to the main, pro-Moscow Communist Party, whose votes he does not need in Parliament but which could cause difficulties through its strength in the unions. It will also do him no harm in his efforts to sell surplus oranges and lemons to the Soviet Union. So, though Greece joined the rest of Nato this week in condemning the imposition of martial law in Poland, it opted out of the sections criticizing the communist regimes in eastern Europe in general and outlining sanctions.

More broadly, the Papandreu

tactics appeal to many Greeks who feel that Athens has been altogether too compliant in the past in its relations with the larger Nato countries.

It does, however, present problems for Greece's partners, both in Nato and the Community. In Nato, statements like this week's on Poland are normally based on consensus, and the same goes for foreign policy statements by the EEC foreign ministers. Dissent by one member is bound to weaken them somewhat, and could set a precedent. There is also the possibility that Greece might hold up the important process of Spanish entry to Nato if it chose to withhold its ratification as a negotiating tactic.

This will have to be met by a combination of flexibility and firmness. In Nato it is clearly essential that full account should be taken of Greek sensibilities towards Turkey — though no more than of Turkey's own sensibilities. In the Community, it has to be recognized that under Mr Papandreu Greece has a markedly more pro-Arab position than any of the other members. Attempts must be made to accommodate it. But there will be occasions, like this week's discussion of Poland in Nato, when at the end of the day the others will have to go ahead without Greece rather than allow themselves to be hamstrung.

THE DOUBLE ORDEAL OF RAPE

When a victim of a particularly brutal rape is so badly affected by her ordeal that she is unable to give evidence at the trial of her alleged attackers, and the case against them is therefore dropped, there is a consequential failure of justice. The decision of the Scottish prosecuting authorities to discontinue proceedings against three youths accused of rape (and attempted murder) appears to suggest that the more horrible the experience of a rape victim, the greater the chances of the rapists getting off. That is not, of course, what the prosecution are saying. They are the prisoners of the laws of evidence, just as their English counterparts would be in similar circumstances. Criticism can be made, however, of the decision to drop the prosecution altogether. The girl may not be in a fit mental state to give evidence now, but she might recover sufficiently to do so in future. The charges ought to have been

allowed to lie on the file, with the possibility of their being revived at a later date.

Some critics go further. Why, they ask, if the victim cannot or will not give evidence herself, is it not possible for her evidence to be presented to the court in written form? In that way, perpetrators of horrific crimes will still be brought to book, even though they have put their victim out of circulation. But to introduce such a reform would be to interfere fundamentally with the basic rights of persons accused of crime. It would, too, in practice reverse the presumption of innocence. There are two main defences to a charge of rape open to an accused: that he was not the rapist, which raises the question of identity, or that the woman consented. In both cases, it is essential that the accused be given the opportunity, through his lawyer, to cross-examine the complainant.

Reconsideration in rape case

From Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC

Sir, Mr Jack Ashley (Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent, South) should desist from publicly badgering Judge Bertrand Richards to reconsider his sentence in the recent rape case at Ipswich Crown Court, through the exercise of the power in section 12(2), Courts Act 1971.

That section provides that within 28 days a sentence "may be varied or rescinded". Looked at alone, the words are capable of bearing the meaning that a sentence passed could be varied by the imposition of a more severe penalty. Mr Ashley, not being a lawyer, may be forgiven for not knowing, however, that the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) has definitely stated otherwise, in a case where a Recorder varied a sentence from a suspended sentence of two years' imprisonment to an immediate sentence of two years.

The Court said: "That section was included in order that slips made by the judge can be corrected, be they slips of the tongue or slips of memory, and it was necessary to have such a provision to enable that to be done. It was quite wrong, in our view, that it should be used as it was in this case, for a fundamental change of mind which had been suspended into one which was not." (R v. Grice [1978] 65 Cr. App. R. (1979) 16.)

Yours faithfully,
LOUIS BLOM-COOPER,
Goldsmith Building,
Temple, EC4.
January 13.

From Mr V. de Lanerolle

Sir, Your Legal Correspondent (January 9) "Doubts" whether there is a possible civil action in cases of rape. While the success or failure of an action must depend on its merits, the question is whether the facts of rape constitute a civil offence. The answer must emphatically be yes, and it is important that this becomes commonly known.

The action of trespass to the person has provided from ancient times a protection in law against direct physical interference. In my view, there is nothing to prevent a victim of rape, subsequent to a successful criminal prosecution, from bringing a civil action in trespass or assault, and thereby recovering substantial damages.

Yours faithfully,
V. DE LANEROLLE,
(Senior lecturer in law,
Polytechnic of North London),
Lodge,
69 Stanmore Road, N13.
January 9.

From the Chairman and Chief Executive of London Transport

Sir, Though I am, of course, always ready to listen to informed and constructive comments about London Transport and its performance, may I suggest that Lord Vaizey (January 6) should check his facts before he makes sweeping generalizations about London Transport, the Transport and General Workers' Union and the Secretariat of State for Transport.

His criticisms are, I know, coloured by a recent unfortunate incident when he was seriously delayed on the District Line; his understandable annoyance compounded by a regrettable failure on our part to provide information about the cause. We got that wrong.

I agree with Lord Vaizey that units of manageable size are highly desirable. In that connection he suggests that the running of the Underground should be separated from the buses. It is suggested also that independent buses should be allowed to run in competition with LT's buses. They are now, but there are few routes on which they can make both ends meet.

When, 18 months ago, unexpectedly and unsought, I agreed to take over the chairmanship of London Transport for a limited period in which to seek to resolve some specific difficulties, I set up separate management units under, inter alia, a Bus Board, a Rail Board and a Property Board, each with its own managing director responsible to the main holding board. Further to delegate and to decentralize, there are, now, eight bus districts and four rail divisions, each with its own general manager. Management and operations are thus brought closer to those we serve.

The results have shown advantages in economy, in efficiency and in management techniques. These are becoming apparent and effective although, as in everything, much remains to be done, while much is still in hand.

As an example, during the past year, the average time between trains on the Underground system has been reduced to 3½ minutes, which is within 50 seconds of the scheduled times. Normal unproductive or "waiting times" at maintenance bases, in more recent years.

It is perhaps appropriate to draw attention to the lessons we might learn from this document for the benefit of our own children. The validity of Unicef's argument depends on systematic monitoring of progress by the collection of relevant statistical data. Our present government has chosen this moment in time, when economic hardship may well worsen the plight of many of our children, to reduce the collection of useful data such as those obtained by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (OPCS) in their General Household Survey. It has continued to ignore the Report of the Committee on Child Health Services which recommended regular monitoring by Parliament of the welfare of children. It has abolished the Children's Committee, which alone was able to act as an independent voice for all children.

Our consciences are appropriately stirred when we read the Unicef document, and we should support that agency both personally and through our government. But surely we should also not allow a situation to develop in which there could be deterioration in the health and welfare of our own children, the most helpless and the most deserving amongst us, without our even being aware of the extent to which this is occurring.

Yours sincerely,
PHILIP GRAHAM,
Institute of Child Health,
The Hospital for Sick Children,
Great Ormond Street, WC1.
January 5.

From Mr Roy Vickery

Sir, Anyone with an interest in traditional drama will be surprised by J. W. Skillington's article published in today's Times, January 11. Either this letter has been on your file for many years, or its writer is unaware of much of the recent research which has been included in the publications of this society, and elsewhere.

After the publication of Fraser's *Golden Bough*, it became fashionable to search for the origins of folk customs somewhere in remote antiquity. Indeed, the "folk" themselves often wanted to believe that their local festivals owed their origins to the Druids, Phoenicians, or some other ancient group. However, recent research does not support such ideas.

The Allendale Fair Festival, which was thought to be of Viking or Druid origin seems to have started in the mid-nineteenth century, the May Day figure of Jack-in-the-Green, once considered to be the "annual victim in the vegetation drama", cannot be traced back beyond the last decade of the eighteenth century, and the Plough Monday play mentioned by your correspondent was not recorded until 1823.

Of course such customs may have been performed for many years before a passing antiquary first made note of them, but until we have greater evidence

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Crucial ambiguities in rail dispute

From Sir Richard Dobson

Sir, — the railway strike is on. Inasmuch as public sympathy may have some effect on its duration and on the form of its eventual solution, the public is entitled to certain information.

There has been no lack of utterance by the protagonists in your columns and other media.

The following can be postulated from published information.

(a) The BR negotiators left the ACAS meeting in August having agreed to pay the extra 3 per cent on the understanding (but not the express condition) that the unions committed themselves, in the time available, to finding ways and means of improving productivity. Although there was not a conditional relationship, BR must have said this, as they say now, that they could not find the money if they did not get the productivity.

(b) The other unions accepted the obligation on productivity but Aslef asserts, not only that the

Yours faithfully.

RICHARD DOBSON,
16 Marchmont Road,
Richmond,
Surrey.

January 13.

Lord Carrington's record on Poland

From Mr Geoffrey Johnson Smith, MP for East Grinstead (Conservative)

Sir, Your criticism (leading article, January 13) of Lord Carrington's tone and manner when commenting upon the western response to the Polish situation on television recently is surely unjustified and inconsis-

tent. You spend nine tenths of your leading article endorsing the need for a "precise, well planned and above all coordinated" western response to events in Poland, but then take Lord Carrington to task for attempting to achieve precisely that.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY JOHNSON SMITH,
House of Commons.

January 13.

Yalta agreement

From Professor Stephen E. Ambrose

Sir,

It is outrageous for the

Russians to claim that Poland was assigned to them at Yalta. It is a disgrace that so many

members of the Western press and political leadership have

so quickly accepted that re-writing of history.

Poland was not assigned to Russia at Yalta: Poland was not one of Hitler's allies; she was therefore not to be treated as an occupied country, but rather was due to her sovereignty restored. At Yalta, in February of 1945, the Big Three agreed that post-war Poland would be free, democratic, and independent. Stalin had pledged to include "democratic elements" in the Polish government (the so-called Lublin committee, a Soviet puppet), and he promised "free and unopposed elections as soon as possible on the basis of universal suffrage and secret ballot".

It is precisely those elections that Solidarity has been demanding and so demanding. Solidarity is insisting that Yalta finally be implemented, not overthrown.

The language and intent of the Yalta Agreements could not have been clearer. Harry Truman demanded that the Russians "live up to their agreements". That they did not do so is well known; that Truman, like Reagan, could not force them to do so is also well known. Those facts, however, do not negate the fundamental historical truth that support for Solidarity is support for Yalta, not an attempt to reverse the wartime agreements.

The Soviets are the all-time champions at re-writing history (you can get a PhD in history in Russia without ever hearing the name Trotsky); the West has a duty to Churchill and Roosevelt if not to the Polish people, to insist on the truth.

Yours etc,
S. E. AMBROSE,
Mary Ball Washington Professor
of American History,
University College,
Dublin.

January 4.

Penlee disaster fund

From Mr G. D. Redfern

Sir, The Times often records without special comment six figure compensation payments to directors who lose their jobs.

Your leader (January 5) disapproving such payments to humbler people for a greater sacrifice speaks volumes about your social attitude. It points on which you elaborate all occurred to people in Mousehole long ago.

Yours faithfully,
G. D. REDFERN,
The Weavers,
Averton,
Penzance.

January 11.

A diary in question

From the Editorial Director of Penguin Books Limited

Sir, We have recently been made aware — not just from Count Tolstoy's letter to you published on January 9 — of the debate about the authenticity of Anne Hughes' *Diary of a Farmer's Wife 1796-1797*, and are looking into the matter. Whatever the case, there is no doubt that the book has given a great deal of pleasure as an ev

Gentleman
of quality,
Page 13

Business News

THE TIMES FRIDAY JANUARY 15 1982

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Daily Mail loses £3m as group profits fall

By Our Financial Staff

The daily Mail, one of Britain's most popular daily newspapers, lost more than £3m. last year, Fleet Street sources say. Associated Newspapers, the parent group, yesterday announced pre-tax profits down from £12.5m. to £16.2m.

Since the closure of the Evening News the mail has been bearing the cost of Fleet Street printing complex alone. The launch of the Sunday Mail, in late spring, will spread these costs.

The profits were much less than the £18m. to £21m. forecast by City analysts. But they took the share prices down by only 2p to 17.3p. The dividend is unchanged, with a final of 5.9p, at 10.4p.

Among costs in 1981 that reduced profits were interest charges on sums for the Evening News redundancies. The turnaround is put in Fleet St at more than £1.5m., bringing interest charges to a debt of £700,000 against a sizable credit on interest last year.

Other adverse factors for the group last year included lower profits from the Argyl field where rig repairs and conservative treatment of the depreciation and depletion hit profits. The magazines were in loss by more than £1m. because of its United States publishing interests, it is believed.

The group's regional newspapers showed slightly reduced profits, down by about £1m. at just below £13m.

The fall in the share price is less than it might have been because of possible plus factors in 1982. These include a full year with the Daily Mail at the present cover price of 15p, introduced last July, better profits from oil, and a possible upturn in advertising revenue if there is an end to recession.

Associated Newspaper executives were in board meetings yesterday, and not available for comment.

Treasury plan aims at 7% inflation rate

By David Blake, Economics Editor

The Treasury is working on plans to update the Government's economic policy which are likely to involve accepting monetary growth of at least 8 per cent in the financial year which starts in April 1983.

This means a significant loosening of the figures contained in the medium term financial strategy drawn up in Spain in 1980. But it is argued that technical factors, not weakening of a resolve to fight inflation, lie behind the shift.

It is thought that the new money target which is emerging will fit in with hopes that next year inflation will be down to 7 per cent and growth in output up to 2 per cent.

A change in the speed at which money goes round in the economy is hoped for which will make this 9 per cent step up in the total national income in cash consistent with the 8 per cent money target.

A little-noticed footnote in the original medium-term strategy which set out the Government targets is turning out to have crucial importance. This said that the way in which money supply was defined for target purposes might need to be changed from time to time.

It is argued that changes in the banking system, especially the growth of bank lending for mortgages, mean that more things are now being counted in sterling M3 than were there when the original strategy was drawn up. This means that higher figures for monetary growth as measured by M3 will not have any extra inflationary impact.

The Government promised at the time of the 1980 Budget to reduce monetary growth to "about 6 per cent by 1984." This has been abandoned.

The action comes after the Government has been forced

to concede that monetary growth in the 1982-3 year will be around 9 per cent.

This is the very top end of the 5 to 9 per cent range which the Government set itself in drawing up the initial plan. Most outside commentators interpreted it as meaning that the Government was aiming for growth of about 7 per cent, the middle of the range, this financial year.

Treasury officials will be completing their plans over the coming weeks as part of preparations for the Budget. It is intended to give the Cabinet a chance to have a full strategy discussion in the next three weeks so that they can make their views known by early February.

The Treasury will have drawn up its economic forecasts by then, including its assessment of the likely level of public borrowing.

There will almost certainly be some indication of the Government's thinking on the exchange rate at Budget time in addition to announcements on monetary and tax policy.

Total bank lending to the private sector increased by £1.086m. in the three weeks to mid-December, compared with the record rise of £2.558m. during the previous banking month.

To the extent that at least some of this lending may represent borrowing to meet tax payments still owing to the Exchequer since last summer, the underlying trend in lending may be slowly coming more into line with what the authorities would like to see.

The effect of slower credit expansion has been to leave sterling M3 0.2 per cent higher on the month, as foreshadowed in the Bank of England's preliminary estimate last week. M1, the narrow money supply, grew by 0.1 per cent.

Financial Editor, page 13

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Merchant bank advisers dismissed

By Philip Robinson

Mr Robert Holmes a'Court, the Australian financier, launched his takeover bid for Lord Grade's Associated Communications Corporation late last night amid reports that ACC had dismissed N. M. Rothschild, its merchant bank advisers, and the Takeover Panel had insisted on a redraft of part of the offer.

ACC believed that Mr Holmes a'Court's terms to gain control of the group would have been announced yesterday morning. The formal announcement was put back until 3.30 pm but failed to materialize.

It was not until 7 pm that the terms were finally disclosed, together with confirmation of Lord Grade's departure from the chair.

It emerged late yesterday that ACC had dismissed Rothschild because the bank would not agree to sign the

takeover document without a thorough examination of ACC. Advice is now being given by Standard Chartered Bank.

It is understood that the terms of the offer now satisfy the Takeover Panel and the bid was given to the Independent Broadcasting Authority on Wednesday night. The IBA would have to approve Mr Holmes a'Court's proposals which appear to suggest a freezing of ACC control of Central Independent Television while details of how to reduce its holding from 51 per cent are worked out.

Central discussed the proposals at a board meeting yesterday but made no subsequent statement. However it now seems likely that the IBA will give its approval but will not make a statement until after detailed terms have been announced to shareholders.

Chairman resigns at UBM

By Margarette Pagano

Mr Michael Phillips, chairman and managing director of UBM, Britain's second largest builders' merchants, resigned yesterday. He was immediately replaced by Mr Gerald Wightman, chairman of Sketchleys, who will be non-executive chairman.

Mr Phillips, who was paid £60,000 a year by the group, claimed last night that his sudden resignation yesterday

\$1m sales a month for Inmos

By Bill Johnstone

Inmos, the microchip manufacturer whose majority shareholder is the British Technology Group, now has a turnover of \$1m (£538,000) a month.

More than 600 people are employed at the company's base in Colorado Springs in the United States and the figure is expected to remain stable while the British plant at Newport, Gwent, starts production in July.

The company has just introduced its latest microchip, called a dynamic RAM. The chip has 64,000 memory cells used in computer systems. The other Inmos product is a static RAM, with 16,000 memory cells, again for use in computer systems.

About 80 per cent of the company's production is sold in the United States, the rest being split evenly between Japan and America. Those ratios are expected to change when the Welsh plant becomes operative.

Plans for the factory, which is expected to create 1,000 jobs by next year, are said to be on schedule. Equipment will be moved onto the site within weeks.

The Inmos board meets today to discuss its plans for the next year. The plans are expected to include scope for substantial growth.

Inmos appears not to have felt any ill effects from the recession. Everything produced is sold and the company is planning to design and manufacture microcomputer chips next year. A substantial amount of the work on this has been done at Bristol by British staff.

By the end of this year, the original three-year programme to establish an international semi-conductor company with bases in the United States and Europe will have been completed.

The company's products, which are sold principally to the computer, telecommunications and military equipment supply industries, are believed to have a sales potential of \$1,000m a year.

Mr Michael Phillips: 'scapegoat for recession'

Morning was because UBM, which is losing money, wanted a scapegoat for the recession.

Mr Phillips said that he had disagreed with the board over his view that radical changes should be made to the merchandising division of UBM.

"I wanted the group to find a balance between retail and merchandising business to avoid the violent effects of the recession," he said.

However, at the board's headquarters in Bristol last night Mr Bill Odley, finance director, refuted this argument. He said: "The disagreement, briefly, was over the structure of responsibilities within the group and nothing to do with either policy or strategy."

The board felt the roles of chairman and chief executive should be split. "We offered Mr Phillips the role of non-executive chairman", he said.

In the six months to August last year UBM lost for the first time £831,000 compared with profits of £2.3m last time.

More Rolls jobs to go

Rolls-Royce is to cut 500 more jobs at its Coventry aero engine factory, nearly a quarter of those remaining after a de-merger operation which has halved the production force in the past 18 months. The management called yesterday for volunteers for redundancy.

Meanwhile, Dr John Watson, director of the Ainsty turbine plant, near Coventry, where 500 of 2,800 jobs were shed last year, has warned of tough times ahead.

The Commercial breaks entirely new ground for BL. It has been designed specifically to exploit loopholes in French taxation laws.

Similar moves to extend model ranges have caused

Yen for robots

Kawasaki heavy industries is to invest 17,000 yen (24,000m) to build what it claims will be the world's biggest robot factory. The factory will be completed by early 1984 and will use robots for tasks such as spot welding. The company expects to produce 2,000 robots a year at the factory.

Home insurance costs rising

Home owners will find insurance costs rising once again after the announcement from the British Insurance Association that house rebuilding costs rose by 1.1 per cent during the fourth quarter of 1981.

Over the 12 months to the end of December 1981, rebuilding costs rose by 4.5 per cent. If the rebuilding cost of a house was £40,000 in December 1980, it would have increased by £1,800 by December 1981.

Financial Editor, page 13

Steel output up

Average weekly steel production in the United Kingdom in December was 263,600 metric tons, up 18.3 per cent from a year earlier when it was 222,900 tons.

North Sea output rises by 10pc

By Rupert Morris

North Sea oil production in 1981 was about 90 million tonnes, an increase of 10 per cent on the 1980 figure, the Department of Energy said yesterday.

Taken in conjunction with the increase in exploration wells from 35 in 1980 to 54 in 1981, and estimates of recoverable reserves being revised upwards by BP and Texaco, it makes an encouraging picture for the industry in 1982.

But oil industry sources pointed out that exploration was not the same as development, which could be severely curtailed by a continuation of what is seen as an unduly restrictive tax regime.

Texaco has announced two new investments: underwater well units costing up to £150m in the Tartan field, which has proved difficult to exploit for geological reasons; and production equipment worth £250m in Block 14/20.

Of these Tartan is by far the bigger long-term project, with 200 million barrels of recoverable reserves, but daily production estimates for 1982 have been halved because of the geological problems.

BP, meanwhile, has revised its estimates for recoverable reserves from the northernmost Magnus field from 450 million barrels to 565 million barrels.

The rapid increase in exploration is regarded by most oil industry experts as being related primarily to the seventh round of licences awarded last year. A boom akin to the mid-70s is not envisaged.

Department of Energy figures reveal, however, that worries about taxes have not stopped a steady increase. Production between January and November 1981 was 81,430,000 tonnes, compared with 80,467,000 tonnes for the whole of 1980.

The final 1981 figures now look likely to be well towards the top end of Government estimates of 80-95 million tonnes.

Production of between 85 and 110 million tonnes is forecast for 1982.

Mines and rail gloom hit pound

By Frances Williams

The prospect of a miners' strike, coupled with the troubles on the railways, has cast a long shadow over sterling on the world's financial markets this week.

Yesterday, it fell for the sixth consecutive day against a buoyant dollar, losing 50 points to close in London at \$1.8630 after dipping to a low of \$1.8550 at one stage. This brings its losses this week alone to more than 5 cents.

The pound's weakness against the dollar has been compounded by the American currency's strength, founded on expectations that United States interest rates are rising. In spite of continuing signs of recession many analysts fear that the Federal Reserve Board may act to tighten credit policy because of the economic crisis there. And the same thing could happen in the Russian trade if the West goes ahead with threatened sanctions in the next few days.

Anglo-Polish trade warning

British liner shipping has been forced out or the trade with Poland because of the economic crisis there. And the same thing could happen in the Russian trade if the West goes ahead with threatened sanctions in the next few days.

However, the pound has also lost ground against Continental currencies such as the Deutsche mark.



Angry shareholders try to oust bank director

Shareholders tried to throw Mr Peter Balfour off the Royal Bank of Scotland board at a turbulent annual meeting in Edinburgh yesterday on the eve of the Government's decision on the Bank's fate.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet is understood to have heard the decision by Mr John Biffen, Secretary for Trade, to accept the Monopolies Commission's recommendation to block the two £500m takeover bids for the bank.

Shareholders voted 83 to 77 against Mr Balfour's re-appointment, but after an adjournment he was re-appointed on a card poll by 5m votes to 1.2m with the help of proxies held by Sir Michael Herries, the chairman.

Mr Balfour, who is chairman of Scottish and Newcastle Breweries and one of Scotland's most prominent businessmen, said afterwards: "Some shareholders don't approve of what the bank is doing, which they are entitled to do, and they are expressing this by voting against the first non-executive director to come up for re-election, which happened to be me."

The board's stormy reception reflected strong feeling in parts of Scotland against the takeover.

The Royal Bank of Scotland Group Limited

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group Limited was held on 14 January 1982 at the North British Hotel, Edinburgh. Sir Michael Herries presided.

A resolution declaring a final dividend on the ordinary shares of 3.0p per share was passed.

Resolutions were passed re-appointing Mr C M Winter, Mr L M Harper Gow and Sir Austin Pearce as Directors.

Resolutions re-appointing Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. as Auditors and authorising the Directors to fix their remuneration as Auditors were also passed.

A resolution was also passed on the following on a poll:

Votes for	Votes against
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Re-appointment of Mr P E G Balfour as a Director

59

BSC boost for S & W Berisford

by Michael Prest

S & W Berisford, the commodity trading and processing group which last year acquired almost 40 per cent of British Sugar Corporation in a bitterly fought battle, increased pretax profits for 1981 by 12.7 per cent to £40.7m.

But without its equity share of British Sugar's profits, Berisford would have seen its own profits grow by just 2.7 per cent to £37.5m. Mr Gordon Percival, Berisford's director described 1981 as "a year of very demanding conditions".

The violent fluctuations in the cocoa market had been

particularly testing. Mr Percival said: "Cocoa, normally the most profitable commodity for Berisford, was supplanted by sugar, and profits from coffee rose more or less to match those from cocoa."

Nevertheless, the final dividend of 7.1 gross means that after allowing for last year's capitalization issue, the dividend has been increased by 15.4 per cent to 10.7p gross. Mr Percival pointed out, however, that the dividend cover is unchanged, earnings per share covering the dividend 2.4 times.

Berisford is also contemplating further expansion, prohibited as the company is from adding to its British Sugar holding until after the end of June. Mr Percival said that Berisford was close to reaching an agreement on buying for up to £15m a commodity trading company based in Switzerland.

One of Berisford's other companies to suffer in the adverse trading conditions of last year was Tom Martin Metals, Tame Valley Alloys, an aluminium processor, also suffered a sharp fall in profits.

Mothercare merger goes ahead

By our Financial Staff

Habitat and Mothercare, joined together yesterday by shareholders' approval of Habitat's £117m reverse takeover, will continue to trade separately, though there may be separate Habitat and Mothercare shops under one roof in certain properties. Mr Terence Conran, the chairman, said:

The new company will be known as Habitat Mothercare and has been admitted to the Stock Exchange official list. Dealings in the new company begin today. According to Mr Conran, the inelegance of the group's new name may be changed in future. A possible title for the holding company is the Parent Company, he said. No objections were raised and no questions were asked by the dozen shareholders at the two separate meetings. Formal approval was given by 30.5m votes to 2m. The combined group will collaborate in textiles, catalogues and property negotiations. Habitat will contribute its expertise in design and styling of maternity and children's products and store layout.

£3m turnaround at Muirhead

By Drew Johnston

A £3m profits turnaround at Kent-based Muirhead, the electronics and communications group, pushed its shares up 10p to 122p yesterday. Profits for the year to September were £882,000 against a loss last year of £2.7m. Sales went up from £25.15m to £28.55, and a loss per share at 25.2p was turned into earnings of 7.3p. The dividend for the year totals 4.28p gross. No dividend was paid last year.

An extraordinary loss of £93,000 arose from the sale of assets in Muirhead Radio

"The recovery did not come

through new products with high profit margins", he said.

At the half year, the company showed the first sign that these actions would be effective when it reduced its losses to only £95,000. Work for United Kingdom and overseas defence industries has kept the company's order book steady. About 22 per cent of production last year was direct exports, though its overseas companies raised the overall level of foreign sales to half the total.

Jones, Stroud profit nearly doubled

Jones, Stroud (Holdings) nearly doubled its profits in the first half. The Wiltshire-based brewer of fabrics and electrical accessories to industry, which also owns the Cash's name tape business, pushed its pretax profits up from £685,000 to £1.2m. Sales were slightly down at £14m, against £14.19m last year, though earnings per share rose from 3.65p to 7.32p.

The company has also managed to slash its interest bill from £421,000 to £240,000, but earnings of

£1.2m are similar to those of the first

associated companies fell from £231,000 to £259,000.

The interim dividend was held at 2.85p gross.

Mr Peter Jones, chairman, said in his statement that the market's recovery in profits in due largely to the restructuring of the group, which the company's management has undertaken since the start of the recession. Trading was still difficult the new rise of interest rates had added to the problems, but the company was expecting profits in the second half of the year to be around £7.6m, slightly up on last year's total valuation.

Part of the recovery is understood to be the result of the cost-cutting exercise carried out over the past 18 months. In the accounts for the year to July, redundancy costs of £105,000 were recorded.

The market's interpretation of the company's improvement led to an increase in the share price of 8p to 83p. This gives it a market capitalization of around £7.6m, slightly up on last year's total valuation.

Broker and Elliott Group end dispute

A dispute over whether stockbroking firm Bone Fitzgerald had given investment advice to a director of the Elliott Group of Peterborough while at the same time acting as advisers to Jenkins & Cattell, which was making a contested takeover bid for Elliott, has been resolved.

In a statement before Christmas, the Elliott board said that Mr Carl Chow, an Elliott director, had decided to accept an offer which was being resisted by the rest of the board, after discussion with Bone Fitzgerald, his personal investment advisers.

In an agreed statement published all parties yesterday, Elliott says it has resolved that the releases and newspaper articles based upon it are capable of being understood to constitute allegations of serious professional misconduct by Bone Fitzgerald, Elliott and their advisors, Greyhound and Guaranty, said they are happy to confirm that no such allegations were intended.

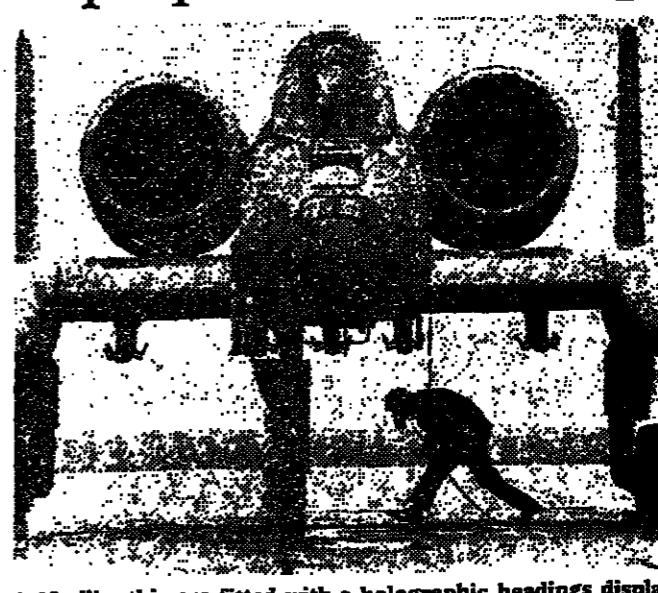
The amount of available information on the equipment is restricted because this first application is for military aircraft. If past experience is a good guide, the modification of the process to the civil field is only a matter of time. More exciting developments in the future, however, lie in the possibilities of three dimensional television.

The two aircraft, the F-16 multirole fighter and the A-10 close-up support aircraft, are the most recent machines to enter service with the United States Air Force, and hence are equipped with the latest electronic aids. This includes an improved version of the device referred to as a headup display, HUD, with which modern low-flying military aircraft operate. This method was pioneered some time ago by GEC-Marconi Electronics, whereby pilots have flight information projected optically into their field of vision; thus eliminating the need to look down at the instrument panel.

The alphanumeric characters and symbols which appear before the pilot are generated by a computer. Now a new generation of headup display incorporating

Technology by Pearce Wright

Marconi keeps pilots' heads up



A-10 like this are fitted with a holographic headup display system.

holography has been devised under a \$100m contract to supply the USAF with a system code named Lantirn Hud. It is a scheme by which pilots will see the night scene ahead of the terrain over which they are flying, at low level, as part of their headup display.

A hologram is the equivalent of a photographic negative in that it contains an image of an object that can be reproduced. But a hologram plate looks like an undecipherable pattern of stripes and whorls. Yet those recognizable blurs have some remarkable properties.

For example, a three-dimensional image of an object can be projected from a hologram recording; and that image can be photographed by conventional means to give a picture as clear as the solid original object.

An image is created from a hologram plate by reversing the process of manufacture. A laser beam is shone at the plate. Part is transmitted and part is reflected, reproducing an image at the spot from the position from the plate of the original object. If the process is done in a specific way, the image appears in three dimensions.

Conventional HUDs show their symbols on a partially flat reflecting mirror, through which the pilot also sees the outside world. Night vision presents a special set of issues. The pictures obtained from infra-red sensors are derived in a different way.

The Marconi Avionics Lantirn Hud uses graphic generated images of flight numbers and symbols which can be now merged in a "combiner" with infra-red wide-angle pictures of the terrain.

Business appointments

Financial director at Bowthorpe

Mr C. M. McCarthy has been named group financial director of Bowthorpe Holdings.

Mr Tim Sherwin has been appointed managing director of the George Wimpey Group's former holding company. He succeeds Mr John Jermine, who becomes executive chairman.

Mr David Massam has been appointed secretary of the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry to succeed Mr Arthur Shaw. The present director and secretary, Mr Shaw will continue as deputy director of the association and secretary of its Code of Practice Committee until his retirement on March 31. Miss Christine Hay has been appointed assistant secretary.

Mr Andrew McDowell has been named a director of George Wimpey. Previously a director of the Weir Group, he succeeds Mr J. A. Connell as chairman-elect of National Girobank. He was formerly senior director.

Mr S. L. Finch, who retired last year as deputy chairman of the Weir Group, has been appointed to the board of P.I. Castings Group as chairman-elect to succeed Mr J. F. B. Jackson, when Mr Jackson retires.

Mr J. A. Connell has joined the board of Carrington Visions as a non-executive director. Mr Connell is a main board director of Heinz Inc and is the senior vice president of Heinz, responsible for UK and European operations.

Mr John Farmer has been appointed sales and marketing director of ERF. Mr Alastair Hanton has been appointed deputy managing director.

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— The Times, London 9th April 1981

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According to, February 15, 1982 the Sinking Fund Notes so designated for redemption will become and be due and payable on or after February 16, 1982 subject to the deposit of funds with the Paying Agent, at one-hundred percent (100%) of the principal amount thereof in United States dollars, at the option of the holder, either (a) at the corporate trust office of Bankers Trust Company, One Bankers Trust Plaza, New York, New York 10006 or (b) subject to any applicable laws or regulations in the country where each of the following offices is located, at the main offices of Bankers Trust Company in London and Paris, or at the main offices of Banque Internationale a Luxembourg S.A., in Luxembourg-Ville. Certain Temporary Notes which were called for redemption on February 15, 1977 have not been presented for payment. Temporary Note numbers TM 1661 and TM 1692 were called in whole. In accordance with Section 3(B) of the Fiscal Agency Agreement, payment of interest due on the above Temporary Notes which were selected for redemption, on February 15, 1977, will not be made unless the ownership declaration as set forth on such Note has been executed.

BANKERS TRUST COMPANY, Fiscal Agent

Dated: January 15, 1982

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Thorn EMI rides the video boom

More than most major companies, Thorn EMI has cause to bless last July's Royal Wedding. The nuptials led to an upsurge in demand for television sets and video recorders, which continued throughout the rest of the year.

With both manufacturing and rental outlets working at full capacity and the Ferguson TX range gaining ground, the group managed to beat stock market expectations for the six months to September 30, producing pretax profits up from £38.6m to £45.5m. But, apart from television and video rental, the figures reflect better results from overseas and the absence of rationalization costs, particularly in the record division.

Record demand continued its slow improvement from the horrors of 1979 when sales plummeted by more than 50 per cent. But though the recession is still hitting demand, Thorn EMI is benefiting from closures in Europe and the emergence of new singing stars.

That is the good news. EMI films are still losing money, albeit not on a titanic scale. And the high front-end cost of depreciating video equipment appears to have wiped out cash flow on the software side. Profits from domestic appliances made a reasonable contribution against nothing in the comparable period last year. But engineering and lighting remain problem areas.

The board indeed, refer to possible disposals for businesses which do not fit into the corporate plan. And there is speculation that the lighting division, the very base of Thorn, will be hived off, maybe to GEC.

Thorn EMI is weathering the recession due to rationalization measures, the improved television and video rental markets, and relatively strong performances overseas. So in the year to March, profits could touch £110m pretax against £94m previously. Beyond that much depends upon the partnership with JVC, AEG-Telefunken and Thomson-Brandt for the manufacture of video disc players in the EEC, further disposals and an upturn in general demand. The shares at 442p reflect hopes that the large investment in video will bear fruit in the middle of the decade.

Money markets

Difficult days for the Bank

Yesterday's full money supply figures for the short December banking month showed nothing seriously untoward — unless, of course one holds to the view that the money supply should be contracting as the effects of the civil servants' dispute are unwound.

As it is, the figures once again confirm that sterling M3 is not the best indicator to be watching for the moment. Against sterling M3 growth at an annualized growth rate of 15% per cent since last February, PSL2, the broad measure of private liquidity has seen its annualized growth rate drop back to 12 per cent, while that for M1, the narrow version of banking money, stands at just 8% per cent.

Of more immediate concern is the present and prospective liquidity shortage in the banking sector. In banking December the Issue Department took aboard a further £550m of commercial bills. That total will have grown since mid-December, and next week the discount houses expect the total liquidity shortage to run anywhere between £1,500m and £2,000m.

Interestingly the banks were buying on bills from outside the banking system during December to give themselves a greater cushion of primary liquidity. But it has been clear this week that, even though the banks may be running down their liquidity ratios (in line with the Bank of England's policy of flexible liquidity norms), liquidity flowing from the authorities through the discount houses has not always been working through to the banks themselves all that fast.

A serious complication now could be any weakness in sterling. The authorities may believe that they should try

to prevent any rise in domestic interest rates, but their scope to use intervention as a support for sterling would only serve to aggravate still further liquidity shortage in the banking system.

United Newspapers Trusting to expansion

While Fleet Street throbs with fresh speculation on the future structure of the national newspapers — and Associated's disappointing results yesterday did nothing to diminish rumours that it may well feature in any restructuring — United Newspapers quietly gave notice that it is proposing to move up a step in the publishing league.

Not that United is likely to have any aspirations about gaining a toehold in Fleet Street particularly after the death of former chairman Lord Barnettson. But by effectively sewing up the purchase of Colonial Securities Trust with an underwritten share offer, United will get its hands on a portfolio that should realise about £10m — or considerably more than it would have been able to raise by a conventional rights issue on the equivalent one-for-two basis.

Given that United is already totally ungered, albeit that last year's net cash position of almost £6m has been partly run down, there is going to be considerable scope for fresh investment and expansion. Over and above further investment in existing operations, United is looking actively for fresh opportunities in publishing, printing and information/communication systems, both here and in the United States.

Pretax profits for 1981 are forecast at £4m against £4.5m the previous year and more than £8m in 1978. That will leave a maintained dividend (offering a yield of over 10% per cent) barely covered. But the expectation must be for a good profit recovery in 1982 as advertising recovers and the new cash earns a return.

Burman/Croda Setting out the strategy

Burman has put a reasonably strong strategic case to its shareholders for the proposed £79m takeover of specialist chemicals group Croda. Essentially it is that the group does not have the trading base from which to grow as an integrated oil company — even if that were possible in a world where there is only limited control over crude oil supplies — and that to avoid becoming an ill-defined conglomerate it has decided to concentrate on a few core businesses.

The one area it has identified as ripe for growth over the next 20 years is speciality chemicals, although there are contrary views within the chemical industry about its potential. In lighting on Croda, which lost its direction in the early 1970s, Burman is claiming that its prospects are much rosier than if it were to struggle along alone given Burman's marketing strengths through the Castrol organization.

To show it means business about its positive strategy, Burman is putting the automotive components division Quinton Hazell up for sale.

Inevitably there will be a lot of hot air over the next few weeks, but at the end of the day price will determine the outcome. The 70p a share Burman is offering is below asset value and looks cheap if Croda makes £15m or so in 1982.

But assets are only worth what they can earn, and Croda — through a mixture of bad luck and weak management — has not been making them that in recent years. Shareholders will have to decide whether Croda will respond to treatment rather quicker in the Burman fold. If the past is any guide, it probably will, given Burman's commitment to make this area of its business buzz. But it should be possible for the Croda board to squeeze a little more out of Burman, even though it is conscious of over-paying for past acquisitions.

Business Diary: Parcel boast • A bridge too far

What should have been a package of pure delight for rail users from Len Dumelow has arrived not only late but somewhat sorry looking.

Dumelow, the secretary of the Central Transport Consultative Committee, a British Rail users' watchdog, has pulled off something of a coup. But not only is the announcement of the CTCC's victory that of persuading British Rail to drop owners' risk conditions for the Rail Express Parcels service from January 1 — two weeks late in coming, but of course yesterday there were no trains to carry parcels at BR's — or anybody else's — risk.

Now, to cap it all, neither Dumelow nor fellow colleagues of the committee's secretariat were able to reach

Transportation

The singer and writer George Melly popularized the adjective "transpontine" to describe scruff like me who live in London but on the wrong, i.e. south, side of the Thames.

Judith Sheward (right) who lives in north London, discusses this particular north-south controversy in the current edition of her *London Newsletter* for foreign executives looking for homes in or near the capital.

Of Camberwell, Clapham, Wandsworth and Greenwich, she says: "There are many beautifully modernized houses which just don't seem to find expatriate renters, despite the fact that many of their neighbours would be of the same age and background, many of them younger professionals."

Mrs Sheward is a director of International Relocation, which helps to house and settle expatriate families, many of them Americans.

She tells me that recession or not, Americans will still not tackle inner south London, but will settle for smaller space somewhere smarter. It seems that once they leave the Melting Pot, Americans want houses either in a nice, white suburb just like the one they left back home, (£1,500 a month up) or else in Hollywood London, those nice squares in Chelsea and Knightsbridge (£2,500 up).

"Brixton has had very bad publicity, so many tend to equate anything from Wimbledon Common to Croydon as bad news," she tells me. Even Putney can draw the response: "It's too far and we've seen some black faces."

Mrs Sheward went on: "I once got an American executive who said to me 'Please, we'd like to know if everybody else in this street will be earning £100,000 a year.'

"While you might be able to make such assumptions in nice, suburban areas in



House and why: executive rehouser Judith Sheward at her own front door in London

America, it's extremely difficult in London to walk down any street and say that, even if you see the handmade silk curtains and the Volvos outside."

Mrs Sheward's guidelines to wealth used to be "blinds in the windows, yellow front doors and brass knockers," but, she adds, "Everybody can get those from Habitat now."

For the record, her curtains are imitation silk, the door is burnt orange, the knocker is brass-and-paint — and there's an Escort outside.

Paul Maidment and John McIlwraith

Gentleman of quality who got the measure of Lord Grade

Mr Robert Holmes a'Court's Bell Group finally bid last night for Lord Grade's Associated Communications Corporation. Uncertainty and last minute hold ups had led to confusion during the day.

This is the kind of drama which has punctuated the long career of the ACC chief. Mr Holmes a'Court's style is very different.

While Lord Grade fits everyone's idea of the show business mogul — from the poor immigrant Jewish background to the ever-present cigar — Mr Robert Holmes a'Court is anything but the popular image of an Australian tycoon.

Quiet-spoken, tall and elegant, the South African-born but now Perth-based Mr Holmes a'Court carries himself as a gentleman of quality, as perhaps befits a son of the Barons Heytesbury. Even his curious (and disliked) sobriquet, "The Profitable Loser," acquired from his knack of selling off strategic stakes in takeover battles he started, has about it the ring of patrician understatement.

His presence is assured and authoritative, both in private and in public, a skill augmented from his days as a member of the University of Western Australia's law school debating team, he arrived in Australia to read law aged 24 after studying agriculture in New Zealand.

On the surface the Grade and Mr Holmes a'Court seem very different animals. But, in fact, they have many similarities. Mr Holmes a'Court, now in his mid-forties and reputedly one of the richest men in Australia, has all the toughness, entrepreneurial flair and workaholic tendencies of Grade, if not the penchant for showmanship — he smokes the slimmer Havana cigars. Many say he has the shrewd business brain of the two. Lord Grade has come to trust him.

Like Lord Grade's, Mr Holmes a'Court's business empire, the Bell Group, is very much his own creation. He pays painstaking attention to detail and until recently checked every item of expenditure personally, including his fellow directors' expense accounts.

The origins of the Bell Group date back a decade.

diversification programme into mineral resources and property to boost its asset base. In 1973, it bought Bell Brothers Holdings, a construction and transport company which had run into trouble following the collapse of the Western Australian property boom that had come on the back of a mineral resources boom.

By 1976, the textile group held 94 per cent of Bell Brothers Holdings and Mr Holmes a'Court commanded the wind up the Bell Group, making it his main vehicle. He is chairman of the group, of which, with his family company Heytesbury Securities, he controls more than half.

Three years later, the group started buying a number of strategic stakes in companies it did not end up taking over, but from which it derived useful profits. The first of these was the Australian Leisure Inc, Jetcare Travel Ltd, Airport Park Hotel NV, and Concord Reinsurance Co Ltd. The media is one of three

which have experience of running a large organization, such as ACC. The trading side of the Bell Group is relatively small for a company with international aspirations.

They also say that he likes the power which media groups offer and the kudos of owning big-name ones, as his concurrent bid for The Herald and Weekly Times group, Australia's largest media conglomerate, shows.

The media is, one of three

which have experience of running a large organization, such as ACC. The trading side of the Bell Group is relatively small for a company with international aspirations.

His response is that his role is that of the entrepreneur, the man whose talent is to bring together the ingredients of an operation. Where he needs to have someone to run something, he buys in the skills, as he did with Sir Larry Lamb to look after his Western Australia-based media interests.

While his skill is to spot the buying opportunities that others have missed, Mr Holmes a'Court has always been proud of the impressive lines of credit he maintains, supplemented by strong reserves within his companies.

The Bell Group's shareholders' funds have been increased to £824m from £517m three years ago through asset revaluations, redeemable preference capital of £514m, a £55m share issue and retained profits of £57m.

In addition to the £55m of

new cash, the group's cash reserves have been available to spend on investments because its transport subsidiaries plant purchases have been matched by depreciation. In 1981, £514m was transferred to reserves, the year before £59m.

Brokers say that Mr Holmes

a'Court has made very effective use of loss-making subsidiaries to take full advantage of tax benefits allowed under Australian law.

Such activity is estimated to have given Mr Holmes a'Court a profit of £40m in recent years. In 1980, the group's net profits of £5.1m were augmented by £51.9m in extraordinary capital gains, and in 1981 profits of £5.6m were similarly augmented by £51.6m.

Brokers say that Mr Holmes a'Court has made very effective use of loss-making subsidiaries to take full advantage of tax benefits allowed under Australian law.

Mr Holmes a'Court says he has never started a takeover he did not intend to see through, but there is always a point beyond which he thinks the shares are not worth the asking price and he is then prepared to sell to somebody who does.

His bullishness for British shares — he also has a 4.5 per cent stake in Vicki's, a 5 per cent holding in Rugby Portland Cement — comes from a belief that they are underpriced because investors have overreacted to the state of the British economy. Less than two years ago, he was quoted as saying that there was a lot of money to be made in Britain.

His attraction to ACC, first revealed when his Perth television station, TVW, bought a 5 per cent stake last July, is that the film flop, "Raise the Titanic," had depressed the share price below level justified by the company's asset backing, particularly its property holdings which have been estimated as worth between £100m and £200m.

Those who have known Mr Holmes a'Court during his rise say he speaks with a dry humour of the fact that a renowned British media giant such as ACC should be a subsidiary of his little Perth television station, which last year did only a tenth as much business.

They also say that he likes

the power which media groups offer and the kudos of owning big-name ones, as his concurrent bid for The Herald and Weekly Times group, Australia's largest media conglomerate, shows.

He recognises the difficulties caused by British legislation restricting foreigners from controlling broadcasting stations.

It is a criticism of Mr Holmes a'Court that he does



Robert Holmes a'Court — shrewder than his adversary

areas which Mr Holmes a'Court underlined for the Bell Group's growth in his chairman's review with the last annual report. The others were transport and mining.

He also believes in integrating print and electronic media within a single group under one top management and with specialist journalists dividing their time between newspapers, radio and television. He may be some distance from his first intentions in this field in Britain, given his reported interest in the Express group of newspapers and known past interest in The Times group, although he recognises the difficulties caused by British legislation restricting foreigners from controlling broadcasting stations.

However, the extraordinary profits he has made from buying and selling strategic share stakes has made subsequent acquisitions easier and brokers say he will need to generate more such profits to sustain the group's growth of the past couple of years. Most Australian brokers expect that to happen.

Mr Holmes a'Court was recently quoted in the Australian magazine, "The Bull," as saying: "I have no commercial interests other than my shareholding in the Bell Group. The only assets I have outside that are my aberrations like my horses and my vintage cars."

Like many self-made business tycoons, he has a passion for horse racing. He owns a 300 hectare stud named after his Hockessin forebears. He recently paid a record price for a yearling in Sydney, and he owns polo ponies.

Despite his wealth and his rich man's hobbies, Mr Holmes a'Court tends to eschew the trappings of the good life. He leads a relatively private life devoted to work during the week and to his family at weekends. He has four children.

A virtual non-drinker who drives his staff as hard as he drives himself, his idea of a business lunch is orange juice and a tomato sandwich. He expects that to be the idea of those he is lunching as well.

He tells with relish of a visit to a merchant bank in the City, a place of which on the whole he is scornful for its long lunches and, to his mind, slack hours.

The meeting was scheduled for late in the morning and soon his hosts were proposing lunch. They were shocked when he insisted that a secretary was sent out to buy sandwiches, telling them he was paying them by the hour and was not paying them to have lunch.

Mr Holmes a'Court tends to eschew the trappings of the good life. He leads a relatively private life devoted to work during the week and to his family at weekends. He has four children.

A virtual non-drinker who drives his staff as hard as he drives himself, his idea of a business lunch is orange juice and a tomato sandwich. He expects that to be the idea of those he is lunching as well.

He tells with relish of a visit to a merchant bank in the City, a place of which on the whole he is scornful for its long lunches and, to his mind, slack hours.

The meeting was scheduled for late in the morning and soon his hosts were proposing lunch. They were shocked when he insisted that a secretary was sent out to buy sandwiches, telling them he was paying them by the hour and was not paying them to have lunch.

In the UK, the recession has resulted in a substantial drop in profitability, all the main UK groups being affected.

Overseas, our operations, particularly in Africa and the Middle East, Australia and direct exports, showed much improved results.

Total group borrowings have been reduced by some £7 million during the year.

Dividend. At the annual general meeting to be held on 5th March, 1982, a final dividend of 3.5p per share will be recommended, resulting in a total dividend of 5.6p for the year.

The full Report and Accounts will be posted

Stock Exchange Prices equities steady

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 11. Dealings End Jan 22. § Contango Day, Jan 25. Settlement Day, Feb 1
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

Extrovert England and Watford doctor has one ambition left to achieve

Vital part of an important family

Any week now Dr Vernon Edwards will catch a plane to Spain where the water flows mainly in the pipes and bring back a sample. Apart from the tap water, he'll also bring back some of the bottled variety. He'll get it tested by his local hospital laboratory in sunny Watford, and with a bit of luck pronounce it perfectly all right. You have to be very careful, when you're looking after

birds, when another eight-year-old fourteen-year-old chick to three-months-old birdie, the just missed when he grazed the footballs.

Dr Edwards is the club doctor at Watford, and also club doctor for the England team. He had only an hour to spare for lunch in between seeing patients at his busy general practice in suburban Watford. We tried for a sandwich first of all at his local club, Old Merchant Taylors', (he went to school and later played with great distinction for the Old Boys ninth team. Well, he was captain, so that does distinguish him). But it was too crowded. So we drove into metropolitan Watford, where he is a JP and many other important things, and headed for the YMCA, of which he was chairman for many years.

In the multi-story car park, we parked by chance beside a car containing two of his Watford charges, Kenny Jackett (who has played for Wales under-21) and John Barnes, a young black player with enormous potential, so everyone in Watford says. They had a brief chat, the details of which cannot be revealed.

As the two young players left to do some shopping, Barnes leaned through the doctor's car window. "And can you give us a note, Doc?" he said, without a trace of a smile. "Just say they're working us too hard."

Dr Edwards smiled broadly, which is his trade mark. Every football club doctor I have ever met is an extrovert, at ease with the mob and with the lads, ready for a joke and for a gavel, although not naturally when on duty. At the YMCA bar, he had a stimulant tonic.

"Graham does work them very hard," he said, referring to "Graham Taylor, the Watford manager. He demands a lot, but in return, he gets a lot out of them. I am achieving my ambition by going to the World Cup finals in Spain with England. My other ambition is to be a club doctor in the first division with Watford of course."

His father was a dentist. After Merchant Taylors', he



Dr Edwards: like the players, had to work his way through the ranks

went into the Royal Navy if he was a telegraphist. After a spell as a farm labourer, he went to train as a doctor at St. Thomas's. He started as a GP in Watford in 1956 and is now at 53, the oldest partner in a partnership of six.

In the bad winter of 1963, the club doctor at Watford collapsed and died after shovelling some snow. The club was stuck for someone to look after their injured and heard that Dr Edwards was a hearty sort of chap, just finished playing rugby, terribly keen on squash, and asked if he would like the job.

"I don't think I'd watched a game of soccer in my life, but it sounded an interesting job. I later went on a few courses on sports injuries. In those days, it was a bit of a cottage industry. Now it is much more scientific."

His contact with the England team happened by chance. He was on holiday in Middlesbrough in 1970 with his wife (they have four children, now almost grown up, two sons and two daughters) and went along to Middlesbrough's match on Saturday afternoon where he met the England doctor, who was then Neil Phillips. Not long afterwards, he got a call from Sir Alf Ramsey, asking

if he would look after the England youth team. He went with them to the Little World Cup finals in Czechoslovakia, and experienced his first injury crisis, at England level. Trevor Francis, then 16, ran into the goal net, grabbed at it and pulled the crossbar down on top of himself. "I thought he'd fractured his thigh, but he had damaged only his musculature. I mixed up some plaster of Paris in my hotel bedroom and put him in it straight away. This was somewhere in East Czechoslovakia, can't remember the name of the town, miles out of the way. I'd taken plastic bandages with my medical kit, just in case. I got him fit in just one week, fit enough to play in the final against Portugal. And we won."

Today, Dr Edwards has a hotel napkin signed by all those under-18 players on the wall of his Watford surgery, along with other England photographs and team badges. It's not to show off but to distract young patients. He finds it a good talking point if children are a bit nervous. He progressed to doctoring the under-23 team, now disbanded, then the under-21 and the B teams, and in 1978, on the death of the England first team doctor, Peter Burrows, he was

invited to be the new doctor. Just like the players, you have to work your way through the ranks. By then, of course, he already knew most of the stars, having come up with them from the youth team.

He has a check list for Spain which he has used on all England's tours so far, but doesn't expect too many unusual problems. Spain is accustomed to English tourists, so he doesn't expect any difficulties with the food (which he is also in charge of), but he'll probably take out an assortment of English breakfast cereals, tea bags, chocolates and sweets, so they don't feel too far away from home. The mental problems could be more difficult. Assuming the team do well, they could be out there for up to 29 days, which is a long time to be away from their wives and girl friends.

"It is a problem for young healthy athletes, but polar explorers can manage to do without, and round the world yachtsmen, and Everest climbers. I think for the sake of England, and the biggest event in their careers, they can manage a period of abstinence..."

Hunter Davies

Rugby League

Headingley holds the stage

By Keith Macklin

Headingley, the oasis in the frozen wastes of the North, could stage two games in 24 hours this weekend. Yesterday, as confidently forecast, the Under-24 internationals between Great Britain and France, Saturday, was switched from frosty Leeds to the centrally heated Leeds ground, and negotiations are proceeding for a championship game on Sunday.

Leeds have arranged with Hull to stage their first division fixture if the Leeds match at Castleford is postponed. Castleford have promised an early decision.

Headingley will make it three games in a week next weekend, when the John Player Trophy final is played at the ground before a record attendance, for which nearly 25,000 tickets have already been sold.

The change of venue from Leigh to Leeds has caused a hasty reshuffle in the training arrangements for the Great Britain squad. They will meet at an indoor hall in Leeds on this morning, and will have special training at Carnegie College, Leeds, this afternoon.

Carlsbad rugby league club have signed York's £15,000-rated wing Terry Morgan on a month's loan and former Fulham back John Risman on a free transfer.

Badminton

British pair through to semi-finals

Britain's top-seeded pair, Mike Tredgett and Martin Drew, have reached the men's doubles semi-finals at the Korean open championships, played in Seoul.

In the third round they beat a Japanese pair, Tsuji and Hasegawa 15-10, 15-8.

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